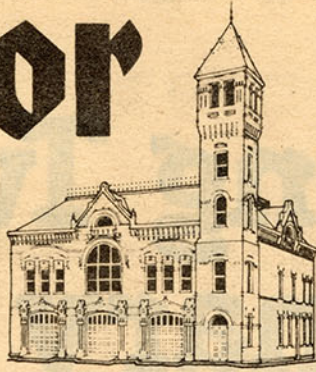


# Ann Arbor



# Observer

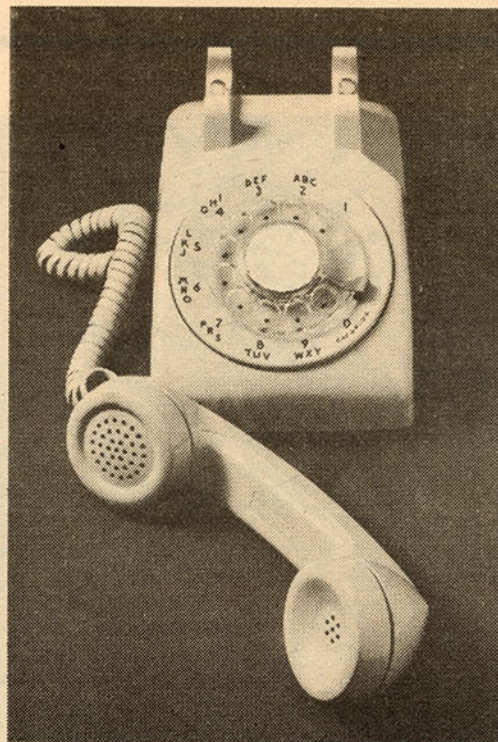
ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

MAY, 1978

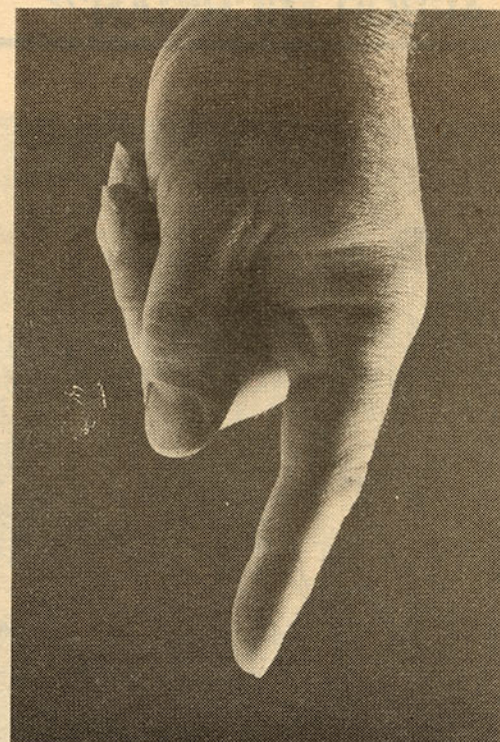




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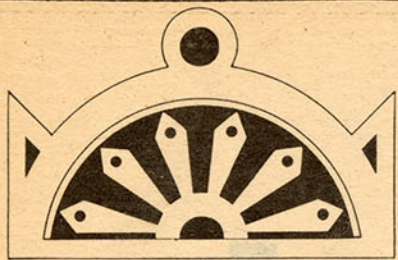


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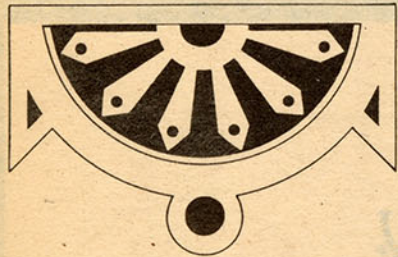
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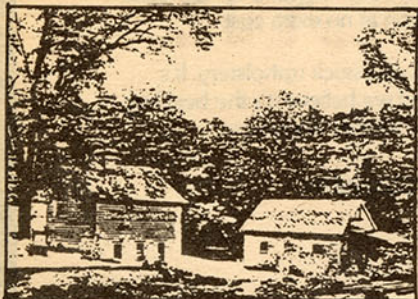
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# Ann Arbor Observer

May, 1978

## Cover

Spring means a crowd of kids and grown-ups at the local Dairy Queen. Doug Kassabaum, architect and defender of the pop environment, drew the one on Packard just south of Stadium.

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Mary Hunt, Publisher

Don Hunt, Editor

Cheryl Geboski, Advertising Manager

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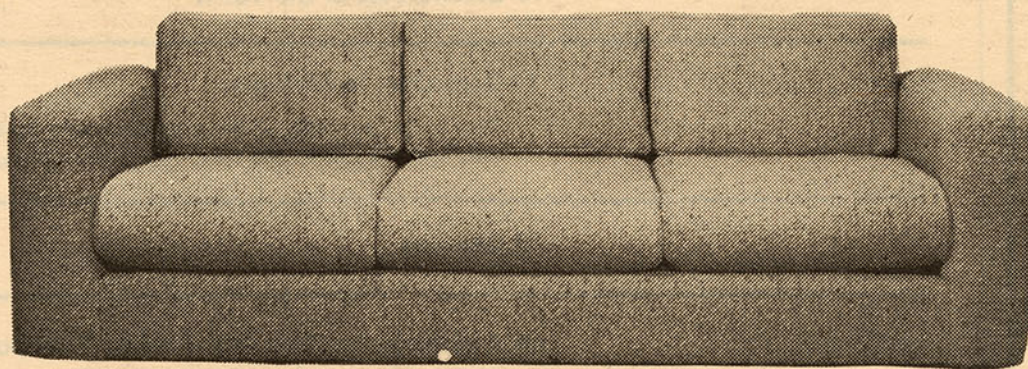
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# Sellers' Market

*Not in recent memory have homes in Ann Arbor appreciated so steeply in value. Nonetheless, the competition between home-hunters is becoming increasingly fierce.*

**DESPERATE COUPLE—** Looking to buy home in Burns park. After 2 unsuccessful bids we're looking for the secret to becoming Burns Park owners rather than renters. If you have any helpful tips please call Pam or Bruce Horwith, 994-0368.

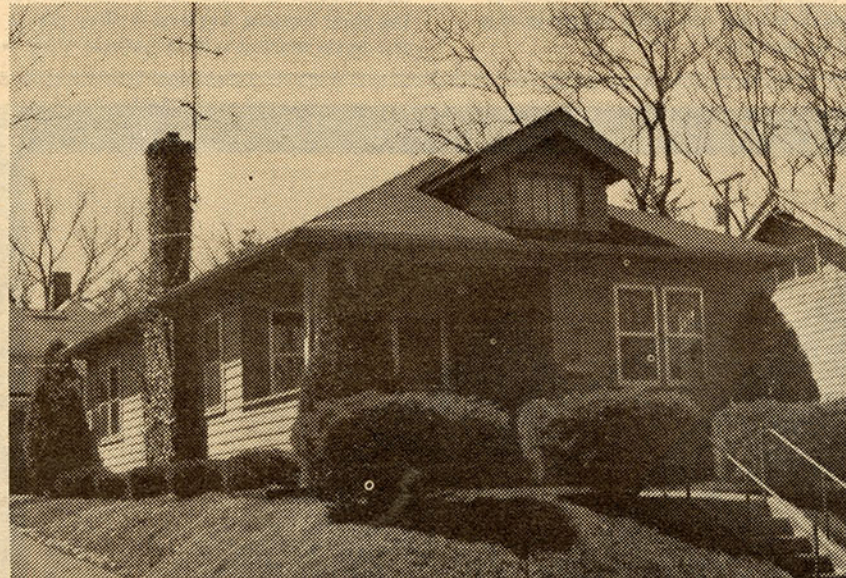
Classified ad in the April 26, 1978 *Ann Arbor News*.

**W**HEN the Horwiths moved from Colorado to Ann Arbor last fall, they settled on the Burns Park area as the perfect place to live. As Pam Horwith explained it, "We wanted to be close to the University. And it's so convenient to the park. I miss Colorado a lot, and I was really hesitant to come to Michigan. But somehow I feel a lot better about Michigan because I've gotten used to the neighborhood here in Burns Park."

The Horwiths are able to afford a house in the \$70,000 bracket, but their earnest efforts to snare a Burns Park home have thus far been in vain. Explained Pam: "We came to realize that other people were bidding higher than the asking price, and we just never dreamed that that kind of thing happened. We even put down bids with no contingencies at all, and still it didn't matter."

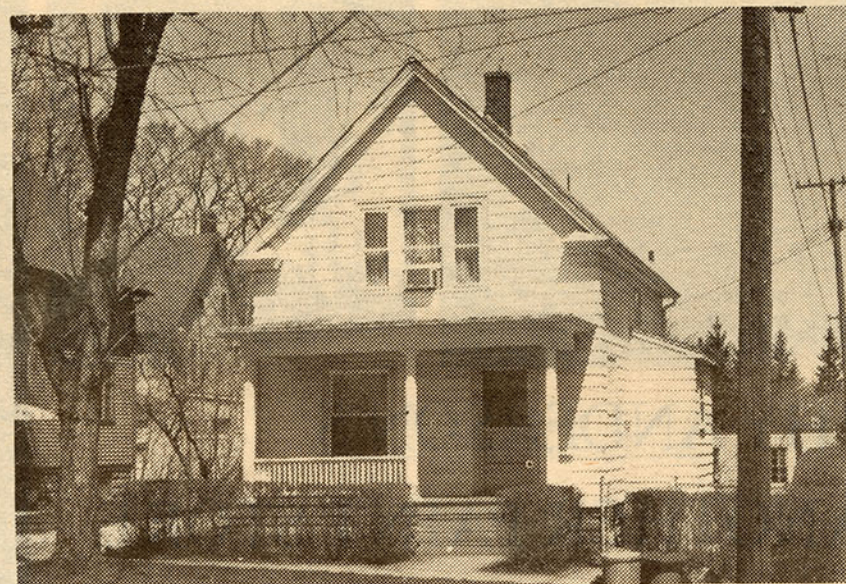
The Horwiths house-hunting luck would be improved if they could afford a \$90,000 home, which today is the more typical price for a comfortable but hardly luxurious Burns Park home. What is more remarkable, Burns Park is not the exception in Ann Arbor when it comes to spiraling homes prices. Realtor after realtor we talked to told us the same thing: you can't find a neighborhood in town where houses are appreciating at less than about 12% annually. In fact, these days it is the lower-priced neighborhoods which are leading all others in appreciation. Said Great Lakes Federal appraiser Douglas Schoenberg, "Actually, the lower-priced houses, the ones in the \$30,000 to \$45,000 price range, are the ones that are going up the fastest, because they're the ones where the most people can bid in on the house. That's why you just don't find many houses priced that low any more."

While the house-hunting Horwiths resorted to the above *Ann Arbor News* "desperation" classified ad, other eager Ann Arbor house-seekers have tried different strategies. As any experienced house-seeker knows by now, virtually any reasonably priced house, once on the market, will attract a dozen or more interested buyers in a matter of hours. Thus one strategy is to "pounce": an offer is made immediately after seeing the house, in hopes that the seller will take the bid because it was the first offered. This strategy alone, however, is far from a sure thing, because the seller will frequently receive bids on that



1707 Maryfield, 2 Bedrooms, 1200 Square Feet

**APPRAISED (1977): \$26,340**  
**SOLD (1978): \$41,000**



314 W. Madison, 3 Bedrooms, 1200 Square Feet

**APPRAISED (1977): \$30,840**  
**SOLD (1978): \$43,900**

same day more attractive than the one submitted by the early bird. Like the Horwiths, house-hunters are increasingly resorting to the stratagem of making an offer without any contingencies. This means if the offer is accepted and the prospective buyer can't get a mortgage or the home is structurally defective, they must forfeit the "earnest money" which accompanies the offer (usually about \$1000). So although it's a risk not to write in those contingencies when making an offer, more people are willing to

take the risk, given the competition they face from other eager buyers.

Another increasingly common strategy is to outfox competing bidders by submitting an offer for over the asking price. As local realtor Garnet Johnson put it: "When the price of the house is listed at, say, \$40,000, people who decide they want to buy the house know that other people have been there looking at it while they were there looking at it and are also interested in signing a sales agreement. So they will offer a thousand dollars more

than list price. And somebody else will think, 'Gee, I'll bet somebody's going to offer a thousand dollars over list price, so I'll offer \$1100 over list price.' It's become a game."

Another word for that game is "auction," which, although not permitted when a house is listed with a real estate agency, sometimes occurs whether the seller wants it to or not when selling his or her own house. Realtor Morrie Dalitz told us of a "by owner" house on the market for which the owner was asking \$40,000, but which was sold that afternoon for \$48,000—the result of an informal bidding battle. Other owners have straightforwardly held an auction and awarded the sale to the highest bidder.

**I**T'S a seller's market in Ann Arbor real estate—in fact, all the realtors we talked to said the market is tilted more to the seller's advantage than they've ever seen. The U-M's chief real estate expert, Karl Pearson, told us flatly, "I don't know of any time in our country's history when the real estate market has been as fine as it is at the present time—from every real estate standpoint: increase in values and in income potential." Pearson views the real estate market from the perspective of the investor. But from the vantage point of others, the boom in real estate values is troubling. This type of high-demand low-supply situation creates especially difficult problems for those with low incomes who want to live in Ann Arbor and are looking for their first home. Said Great Lakes Federal's Douglas Schoenberg, "I think one of the unhealthy effects is that it's pricing many people out of the opportunity to buy a house. The more prices inflate above wages, the harder it is to save for a down payment. And also, the more prices go up, the more your monthly mortgage payments go up, and they also become more than a lot of people can afford. It's pricing a lot of people who before were considered to have healthy incomes right out of the market, and that's unfortunate." Because homes are now just about the best investment the average person can make, there is a sort of "rich get richer, poor get poorer" syndrome that can develop. Those who have waited too long may not be able to find a home they can afford and must continue to rent as the cost of homes continues to move farther and farther out of their reach. Those who already own homes are automatically rewarded by their steady appreciation in value.

It's not just those with low incomes who are unhappy with Ann Arbor's housing market. The realtors themselves don't like today's seller's market. That may seem paradoxical. Real estate agents sell houses for owners for a percentage (usually 6%-7%) of the sale price. The higher the house sells for, the more the agent's commission. The rapid appreciation in the cost of homes is reflected in a 14% in-



crease in the dollar volume of real estate sales between the first quarter of 1977 and the first quarter of 1978. While that looks like a hefty increase, it must be realized that the booming real estate market has caused a big influx of new real estate agents. There are over 500 realtors in the Ann Arbor area today, almost a 30% increase over the past two years. Although newcomers to the field aren't likely to earn nearly as much as experienced agents, such a substantial increase in the real estate sales ranks is bound to dilute the earnings of many established realtors.

The seller's market in real estate has caused another worrisome problem for realtors: the growing tendency for homeowners to sell their own homes, thereby saving the 6%-7% realtor's commission—which costs as much as \$4200 for a home sold for \$60,000. The trend toward "by owner" home sales is reflected in the 23% lower number of listings with the Ann Arbor Board of Realtors than a year before.

The reason for the proliferation of "by

## As one long-time realtor told us ruefully, "Any dummy can sell a house in this kind of market."

owner" sales is not hard to explain. A major role of real estate agents has been to find and convince someone to buy their listed houses. But when a reasonably-priced house can attract a dozen interested buyers after only one short classified ad in the *News* (we confirmed several such experiences by calling people who had put in "by owner" ads), it is clear that finding eager buyers is no longer a problem. A major function of real estate agents has thereby been undermined. As one long-time realtor told us ruefully, "Any dumb ass can sell a house in this kind of market."

But realtors are quick to point out that they think sellers can make a real mistake selling their homes themselves in today's fast-moving market. Pricing is becoming difficult even for professionals. The realtors we talked to are confident they can make the seller the same amount of money from the sale of his home and at the same time save him the hassle of dealing with hoards of interested buyers. What realtor Garnet Johnson told us was typical of several realtors' comments: "I don't know why the 'by owners' are selling their houses, because if they put it on the open market with a realtor, they will

probably get as much or more as they could possibly get by selling it themselves. For example, I had an attorney's home that I listed. He called me and I asked what price he had in mind. He told me about \$48,000. I listed it for \$58,000, and we had three full price sales agreements on it within two hours. People who sell their own homes end up not saving the commission by not understanding what the price of their house is."

The city appraisers we talked to also spoke of the problem in coming up with a market value of a house during a time when prices are going up as much as one and one half per cent a month. Said the assessor for Birmingham, Michigan, "It's getting tougher and tougher and tougher to assess houses."

On the other hand, a homeowner selling his or her home needn't necessarily guess what to sell it for. One local couple we talked to who were selling their home by a *News* classified ad had paid a Caldwell-Rinehart appraiser to tell them what to ask for it. They sold it within a day.

**W**HY has this seller's market developed over the past year or so? In talking to real estate experts, we learned that it's actually a nationwide phenomenon. It's been more or less a seller's market for several years, now, and in recent months the upward spiral in prices has merely accelerated—from about an average of 9% to a present rate of 12% annually. City assessor Wayne Johnson partially explains the spurt in prices in recent months by the psychological effect of nationally-publicized information that the average new American home will before long cost \$80,000.

But there are more basic factors underlying the recent surge. Clearly what has caused the present market situation is a shortage of houses, and the reason for that shortage is the rapidly escalating cost of new homes. Karl Pearson explains the housing shortage this way. "The basic factors which have contributed to this recent acceleration in housing prices are



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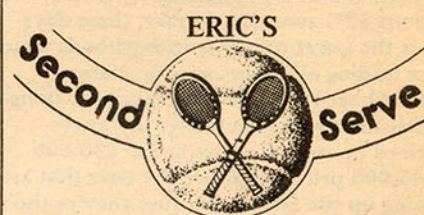
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**APPRAISED (1978): \$30,000**

**SOLD (1978): \$43,900**

NOTE: The photos shown in this article are of recently sold Ann Arbor homes. Not all homes sold increased in value as dramatically as did those pictured here, but these are by no means uncommon examples. The appraisals listed were made by the city and tend to be somewhat behind market value.

the ever-increasing costs of land, and likewise the ever-increasing acceleration in labor costs and likewise the ever-increasing cost in building materials: lumber, plywood, in fact all kinds of materials that have a natural gas base—all of which has been accentuated by the energy crisis." The more expensive new homes become, the more sought after are the older, less expensive homes, which, in turn, drives their price up.

Pearson also mentioned another factor driving up the cost of homes: people are willing to pay more for a house these days. "You used to have as a sort of an axiom that you should not spend on your monthly payments more than 25% of your gross income," he told us. "That's no longer the situation. Recent surveys indicate that it's quite common to spend as much as one third of your monthly income in buying a home, and to forego other things to make this possible. We also have to bear in mind that there are more adult wives working now than ever before and consequently the supplemental income makes it possible for working couples to afford much more in a house than they ever were before."

We asked Great Lakes Federal appraiser Douglas Schoenberg how fast he has found Ann Arbor house prices increasing. "Particularly within the past half a year, prices have jumped like I've never seen them before," Schoenberg said. "We're finding that even many of the real estate agents are having a difficult time keeping up the value estimates. In some cases we have been observing inflation of ten to twelve per cent just within the last six or seven months [equaling over 20% annually]. That's unheard of, at least within Ann Arbor." We asked Schoenberg why he thought Ann Arbor's prices were going up so sharply. "Personally, I believe it's a shortage of supply. When you look at what's on the market, you find there's really very little there. I'm sure if you ask some real estate agents for a look in their listing book you'll find there's nothing to speak of in it. There are a few homes on the market. But there is not nearly the volume of houses they would like to have to show their clients. Also, there is some improvement in the economy of late, within the last half year or so, and many of the corporations are moving people again into the area. Bechtel and Bendix as well as others. So the demand for Ann Arbor homes is increasing, and because there is so little new construction of homes, there is a shrinking supply of homes on the market relative to demand."

As an appraiser for a major lending institution, Schoenberg has to take a very cautious look at today's skyrocketing prices. We asked him if prices were becoming unrealistic. "We have some questions about that. But from the appraiser's standpoint, all we're here to do is to reflect what the market is telling us. Right now the market is telling us that those high prices are warranted. But I do wonder if people are now sometimes paying a price that is even above premium."

Have the prices of Ann Arbor homes climbed so high that there could be an eventual fall back in prices? "That's what we're afraid of," Schoenberg said. "My personal opinion is that there won't be a fall back. I don't see a reduction in price. But I see a leveling off in the growth of home values. In other words, if right now we're having an inflation rate of 12% a year in real estate, I can see that leveling off to where we won't have any increase in prices for a little while."

Local realtor Morrie Dalitz also thinks the market is near the end of its recent spurt: "The market will peak very shortly, in my opinion. Because the city is already letting out contracts for removing the sludge from the present sewer plant to make room for the new plant. We've been discouraging fast growth because of the lack of sewage capacity, so when Ann Arbor can supply more sewage treatment and extend sewage to the townships, we'll have new homes to sell people."

A view of the future real estate market contrary to both Schoenberg's and Dalitz's is held by Karl Pearson. When asked if he thought the price of homes would keep going up as much as it is now, he told us, "This is a matter of individual judgement. In my opinion, this increase in the price of houses will continue, and perhaps by 1980, instead of seeing an average price of a new home in Ann Arbor of \$65,000, it could well be around \$75,000. Look at the factors that have caused this upward movement: there certainly isn't going to be any increase in the availability of land. So far as recession having an effect, there certainly won't be any reduction of wages, what with the power the labor unions possess. With regard to materials, with the reduced demand that will come about with a recession, there is the possibility of some slight reduction there. But I see no reason why the present trend shouldn't continue. Housing prices have been advancing at the rate of about 12 per cent, and I would estimate that that rate or something very close to it will continue for the foreseeable future."

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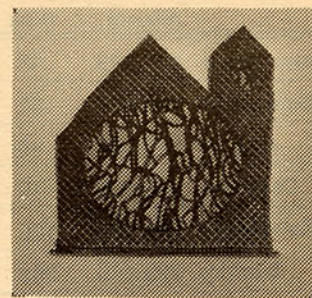
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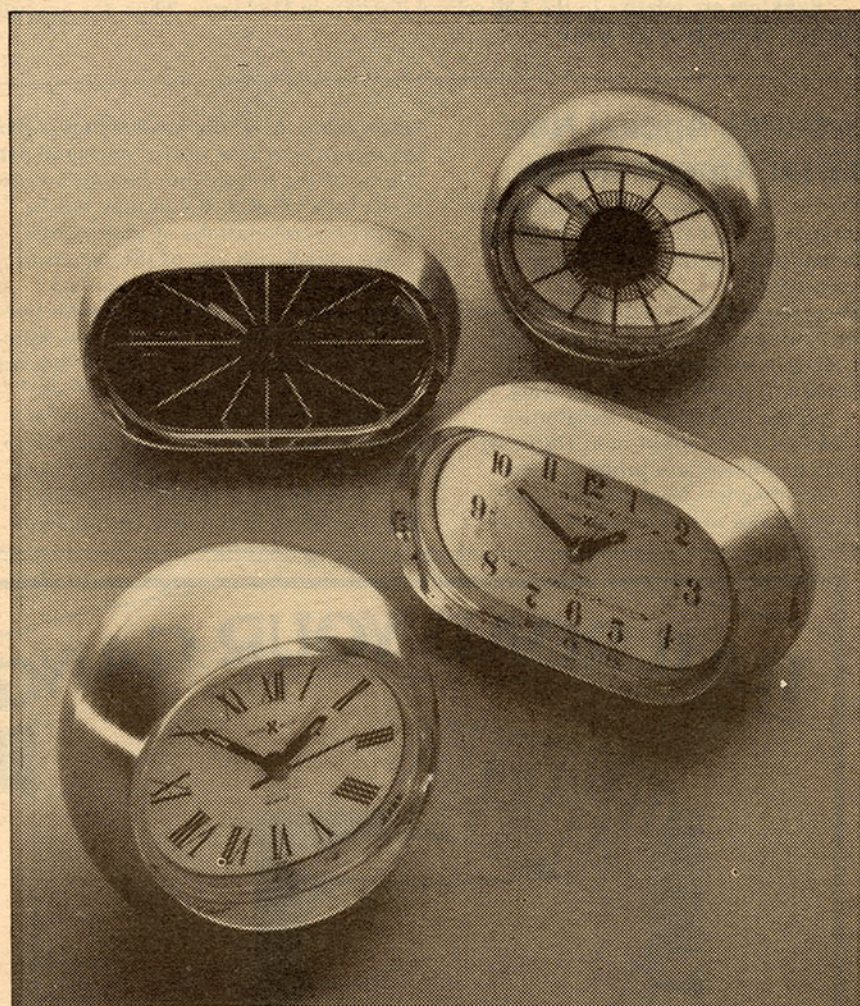
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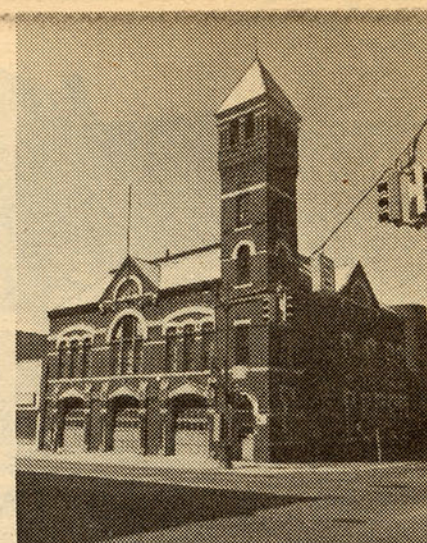
# Ann Arbor Items

## Ann Arbor Public Schools: A Financial Comparison

TAX BASE PER PUPIL			TOTAL EXPENDITURES		SALARIES FOR INSTRUCTION		AVERAGE TEACHER'S SALARY		PUPIL- TEACHER RATIO	LOCAL SCHOOL TAXES		
												% of Overall School Budget
	Amount	Rank	Per Pupil	Rank	Per Pupil	Rank	Amount	Rank		Per Pupil	Rank	
Ann Arbor	\$47,013	48	\$1848	21	\$1219	10	\$16,780	56	18	\$1657	11	88%
Birmingham	\$48,424	42	\$1916	10	\$1182	12	\$18,353	17	20	\$1763	8	93%
Chelsea	\$38,806	86	\$1288	261	\$ 800	204	\$13,144	301	21	\$1004	103	81%
Dearborn	\$66,165	15	\$2145	3	\$1339	4	\$18,013	22	17	\$1886	4	89%
Kalamazoo	\$34,126	105	\$1912	11	\$1126	16	\$15,784	94	19	\$1306	41	71%
Lansing	\$23,866	260	\$1710	31	\$1074	30	\$16,301	74	23	\$ 838	153	51%
Northville	\$28,394	175	\$2151	2	\$1304	5	\$16,485	68	20	\$ 974	112	45%
Oak Park	\$54,625	31	\$2407	1	\$1635	1	\$20,033	3	17	\$1815	7	79%
Saline	\$35,682	98	\$1298	235	\$ 833	162	\$14,303	178	22	\$ 978	110	76%
Ypsilanti	\$30,485	147	\$1637	47	\$1072	32	\$15,137	128	20	\$ 921	125	59%

The above comparison of selected Michigan school districts for fiscal year 1976-77 is based on recently released data published by the Michigan Department of Education.

Rankings are relative to the 530 school districts in Michigan. Thus, for example, Ann Arbor is 48th out of the 530 districts in amount of tax base per pupil.



## Old Firehouse Fate Still Undecided

Now that the fire department is ensconced in its new, 100% federally funded firehouse on Fourth Avenue, the 1882 firehouse on East Huron, a central city landmark, is now empty. City council has already established strict preservation standards for the facade of the unusual Italianate-style structure and must now decide what use it should have.

Mayor Lou Belcher told us there is considerable council support for retaining city ownership of the old firehouse. A preferred option at this point would be to lease the firehouse to a private firm to be used for offices or a restaurant. Preference would be given, Belcher said, to a function such as a restaurant, which would allow the public to use and enjoy the building.

Another option council has is to turn the red brick building into an extension of the already crowded City Hall. However this would be quite expensive, and a tight city budget all but precludes its extensive refurbishing for city use in the near future.

## Who Is #1?

Drivers around Ann Arbor can't have missed seeing those two bumper stickers, identical in design and color—maize and blue. One says BO IS #1. The other says JESUS IS #1.

## Landlords Appeal New Charter Amendments

Twelve citizens have filed an appeal in Washtenaw Circuit Court with the hope of overturning the new city charter amendments.

These amendments, which were passed in the April elections by an ample 61%-39% margin, are entitled "Fair Rental Information" and "Truth in Renting." They require landlords to distribute a new version of the *Rights and Duties of Tenants* handbook and prohibit them from including in a lease anything the landlord knows to be deceptive and un-

enforceable. Also, the landlord must give the tenant a written notice stating in part, "Some of the things your landlord writes in the lease or says to you may not be correct representations of your rights."

We talked with one of the signers of the complaint, Dan Kaplan, an Ann Arbor contractor and landlord with five local rental properties. Kaplan was reluctant to discuss the case because it has not yet been tried, but told us that if we would glance through the amendment petition, that what was objectionable to him would "hit us like a ton of bricks."

It would appear that what disturbs him is wording in the new amendments

which hardly cast a flattering light on local landlords. The amendment reads, in part "The people of the city of Ann Arbor find that a serious and persistent problem exists for city tenants in protecting the legal rights as tenants due to tenants' lack of reliable information concerning their legal rights and duties with regard to their housing."

Kaplan told us the amendments will be detrimental to the city's environment because they will discourage people from buying rental property. He also seemed to be offended by the general flavor of these new laws.

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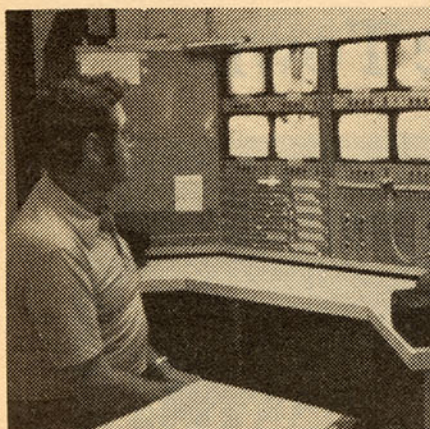
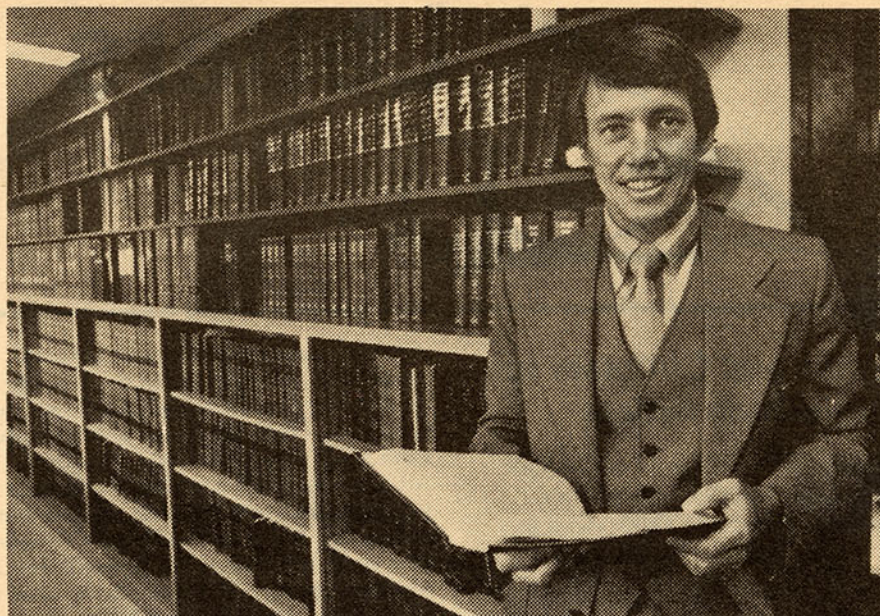
## Laidlaw Lives

The first "Test of the Town" letter we opened after April's issue was from Bruce Laidlaw. It began, "Despite the fact that you included my obituary in the April issue, I would like to participate in the Test of the Town contest." Last month we had reported in our post-election article based on an interview with the (then) mayor-elect Lou Belcher that "Acting City Attorney Bruce Laidlaw is almost sure to be replaced by a permanent attorney more to the Republicans' liking." How wrong we were. One of the first things Republican Belcher did after becoming mayor was to nominate Laidlaw as permanent city attorney. Laidlaw was then unanimously given permanent status by the now Republican-dominated city council.

Laidlaw, 36, had been acting city attorney since 1975 because the Republicans blocked a Democratic attempt to make him the permanent city attorney.

We linked the past Republican position toward Laidlaw with Belcher's refusal to discuss Laidlaw's professional fate, concluding that Laidlaw's days were numbered. But we have now learned that the Republicans are happy with Laidlaw and have been for some time, notwithstanding his background as chief assistant attorney under the liberal Harris-Lax regime. Laidlaw had been appointed Chief Assistant City Attorney by City Attorney Jerry Lax in 1969.

"People identify you with who you are working with," Laidlaw told us. He said he is actually politically an independent. "Jerry Lax didn't ask me what my politics were when he hired me," he said. Besides, says Laidlaw, little of the city attorney's job is political, anyway: "If you count up the things that have a partisan tinge as opposed to the basic legal work in being a city attorney, it ends up being less than one per cent."



## It's 1984 on Maynard St.

Maynard Street hooligans will find themselves on live television the next time they try their destructive antics in the Maynard Street carport. An \$80,000, 31-camera monitoring system has been installed in the structure and is now monitored 24 hours a day, seven days a week by a person in a console room on the first floor.

Vandalism in the Maynard Carport reached new heights after Dooley's and Second Chance bars were built nearby. Both bars have large seating capacities and have attracted a fairly rowdy out-of-town clientele.

Now there is not much you can do in the carport without being spotted (or heard—each camera also has a mike) by the guard monitoring the eight-screen viewing console. If he sees something that looks suspicious on one of the smaller screens, he switches the image onto a larger screen to the right (not yet installed) and can maneuver controls which cause the camera to zoom in on the suspicious incident. Even the elevators have cameras, providing on one of the monitors a clear head-top view of the occupants. If the guard sees something minor occurring for example someone kicking an elevator wall—he can flip a switch and through a PA system tell the person to stop it. (This has already proved an effective deterrent

in several instances.) If needed, a police car can be summoned immediately.

The person who monitors the console week-days is Robert Schmidt of the city's Streets, Traffic and Parking department. Schmidt simultaneously is the dispatcher for the city's parking violation officers—the people who write out parking tickets and have cars Denver-booted or towed. Schmidt is the person you call (994-2908) to complain about someone you want ticketed or towed for parking illegally. He has direct radio contact with all the on-duty parking officers and directs them to the source of a complaint.

Nights and weekdays the city pays Burns guards (at \$5.80 an hour) to man the console room.

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Session I: AUGUST 14-20

Session II: AUGUST 21-27

### YOGA CAMP AL-GON-QUIAN

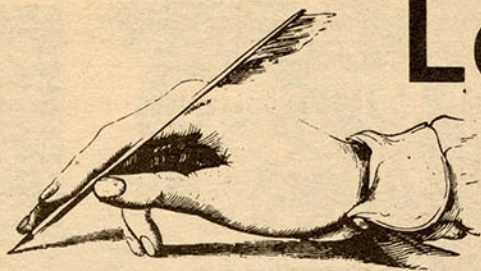
*Individuals and families are invited to enjoy instructional and recreational activities on beautiful Burt Lake. The "Y" yoga staff will offer instruction in the Asanas as taught by B. K. S. Iyengar. Let discovering yoga as a family be this year's summer camp experience.*

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# Letters

## Praise and Criticism for Dial-a-Ride Article

Your Dial-a-Ride story in the April issue was outstanding! I hope many taxpayers read it and *Think* about it.

—W. A. Donance

The *Observer*, with its Dial-a-Ride article, has done it again: a well-thought-out analysis of a complex city issue. Keep up the good work.

—Sidney Maxwell

I am struck by the extraordinary amount of public dialogue in Ann Arbor regarding Dial-a-Ride. It seems to have become a political hot potato and, as usually happens in such situations, the true issues at hand are being passed over.

As nearly as I am able to determine, the charges and claims surrounding Dial-a-Ride have been expressed as follows:

1. Dial-a-Ride is a costly gimmick: it is intended, and has failed, to attract riders to the public transit system and it represents inefficient expenditures of the property tax revenues.

2. Dial-a-Ride is a necessary and justified service for residents who, for one reason or another, have limited mobility.

3. Dial-a-Ride has successfully attracted new riders to the system providing more efficient usage of the fixed-route services.

4. Dial-a-Ride has failed to live up to its expectations as a "demand-responsive" system since it frequently does not arrive for pickup within the promised time and users have frequent difficulty in reaching a Dial-a-Ride operator; in short the system is downright unreliable.

It seems to be quite easy to document any side of these issues (with the exception of the 2nd point) in an effort to support one's conclusions that (pick one) a. Dial-a-Ride is an asset to the community, or b. Dial-a-Ride is a waste of money. The *Ann Arbor Observer* has found it quite easy to assemble an indictment of Dial-a-Ride based primarily on comparative cost-per-passenger figures. Suffice it to say there are probably half-a-dozen manipulations of just the data you presented in that little box on page 5 that could make Ann Arbor come out looking worse or better (try ridership per capita as a measure of success, or ridership per vehicle mile as a measure of even worse failure, or subsidy per passenger compared to cost per passenger which would put Ann Arbor right about in the middle). None of these methods would tell us any more or less than cost-per-passenger.

My point is this: Dial-a-Ride cannot be discussed in a vacuum. Nor can its supporters or detractors pull a couple of numbers off the budget sheets and get a full understanding of what's going on. Dial-a-Ride must be considered as only one part of a discussion of how people travel within a community. I do not hear that discussion taking place. A few observations should serve to illustrate the problem.

First, some very clear objectives of a public transit need to be understood. For example, everyone seems quick to acknowledge, and quick to deplore our over-reli-

ance upon and love affair with personal automobile travel. Yet I see no clear understanding of what this reliance costs the community. Parking garages aren't cheap, neither is road maintenance. Yet Ann Arbor seems at once willing to condemn expenditures for Dial-a-Ride, support the millage for AATA, refuse to use the transit system, and clamor for expenditures for road repairs. I do not condemn Ann Arbor here: these are typical community attitudes across the nation. Yet they do not make sense. They are contradictory.

Second, a suitable means of transportation is needed for handicapped, elderly, and low-income residents. Ann Arbor seems prepared to reduce Dial-a-Ride except to these people of limited mobility and replace the diminished Dial-a-Ride role with a greater role for line-haul buses. The argument, however, runs in two directions. Why use Dial-a-Ride vans when fixed-route service will cost little more? On the other hand, why lose the flexibility of the vans when the savings are minimal? Cost-savings would only be realized if the service levels were diminished, that is if the buses covered less area than the vans, and the end result might be to make the Dial-a-Ride vans for the handicapped more expensive (per passenger) due to their less efficient use. To compound the problem even further, study after study indicates that service-level has an equal, if not greater effect on consumer demand than fare-level (which might partially explain why people prefer the automobile to the less expensive bus trip). The end result might conceivably be to lower ridership on the system in general, with little cost saving (which would raise cost-per-passenger if you prefer to look at it that way).

I am continually struck by the fact that none of us really understands what impact Dial-a-Ride has on the ridership behavior of the community, yet we profess to be able to accomplish certain things with or without Dial-a-Ride, depending which side of the issue you're on. I am worried that Dial-a-Ride is being rushed to its grave without a full understanding of how well (or at what levels of service) fixed-route buses will be able to replace it. I also fear that the combined effects of reducing Dial-a-Ride, raising fares, trying to relieve parking congestion downtown (ironic that you should follow your Dial-a-Ride story with a story on the possible future of the jail as a parking structure), and the continued short-run stability of fuel prices will have serious detrimental affects on the future of public transit in Ann Arbor.

I would argue that none of these effects alone is likely to cripple the system, but I would argue that we might be, bit by bit, doing things the consequences of which we do not understand. This community needs to encourage public transit usage, not discourage it.

—George Ferrell

[The point of last month's Dial-a-Ride article was that Dial-a-Ride costs more than it is worth. At this time Ann Arbor's bus system, which is at least twice as expensive as those in most other cities, provides quite small benefits in terms of reducing pollution, congestion, the need for more parking, and energy consumption. We still think the question is valid: why is there such a high tax

subsidy for a door-to-door bus service which has not and in all likelihood will not meet fundamental goals of a subsidized transit system?]

## A Tribute to Wheeler

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking Albert Wheeler for the countless hours of work he put in while mayor of the city of Ann Arbor. Regardless of what you think of his policies and decisions, Wheeler gave the job a 100% effort, and did so with a dignity and integrity few could equal.

—Joan Parker

## Belcher Pro and Con

Thank goodness we now have a mayor who is a progressive in the best sense of the word: Lou Belcher.

—James Stanich

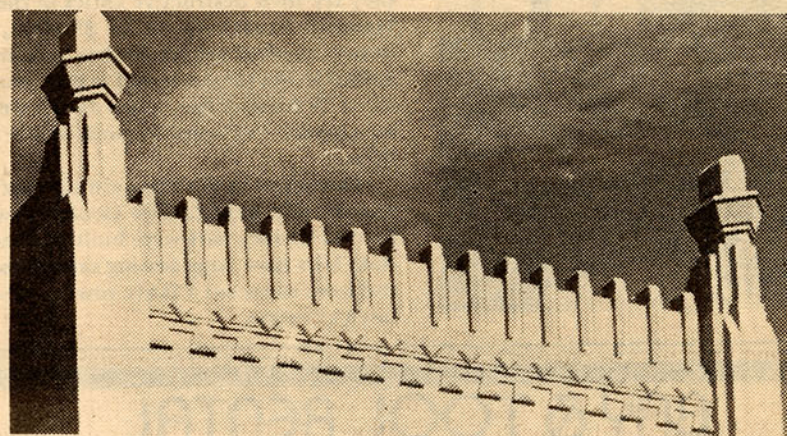
I was interested to read in your April *Observer* that Lou Belcher's mayoral campaign strategy was to send direct mailing to encourage Republicans to get out and vote rather than to convert the Democrats and independents. It seems to me that this strategy assumes a great deal more rigidity on the part of the voting public than is actually the case. I wonder how many Ann Arbor voters really knew what the key Differences between the candidates were.

—Thomas Stein

## NOTICE

The *Observer* welcomes letters to the editor. Write them to: Ann Arbor *Observer*, 608 Wolverine Building, 202 East Washington, Ann Arbor 48104.

## Test of the Town



If you correctly identify this month's mystery photo, and if your answer is the first to reach us by mail, you can win a record album of your choice from Liberty Music, 417 E. Liberty.

Last month's photo of the arched windows and checkerboard tile wall was a window of the Michigan Theater Building on East Liberty. Such Mediterranean

motifs and glazed terra cotta trim were popular in the late twenties when the building was erected. Kaaren Klingel and Bruce Laidlaw sent in the first responses we saw in the first batch of answers.

To enter Test of the Town, mail your reply to the Ann Arbor *Observer*, 608 Wolverine Building, 202 E. Washington, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104. —Bob Breck



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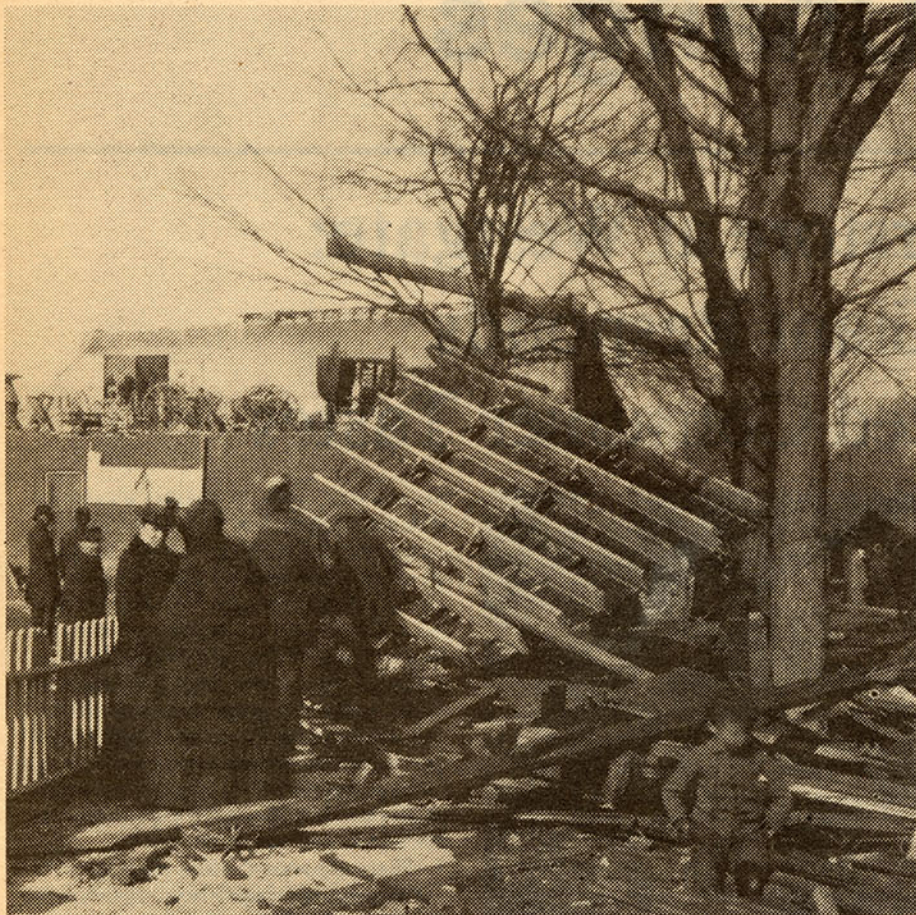
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# Michigan Tornadoes: The Time Is Ripe



Sam Sturgis Collection

After the 1893 tornado in Ypsilanti, townspeople surveyed the wreckage of the Curtis Carriage Factory, on the southwest corner of Adams and Congress. The building's roof and second floor were blown away, but the heavy potbelly stove remains in place.

This is the tornado season for Michigan. It begins in April and extends through September, with most tornadoes (61%) occurring between April and June, according to 1834-1975 data from the Weather Service Forecast Office in Detroit. This year's cold spring has delayed the tornado season. Warm air is necessary for tornadoes to develop, as we shall learn.

Tornadoes are popularly thought to come from the southwest, and often they do. Southwest Michigan gets more tornadoes because it is closer to the tornado belts of Oklahoma and Kansas. There, and over much of the central United States, a natural tornado alley is formed by the huge open expanse of the Great Plains extending east of the Rockies from Canada to the Gulf of Mexico. Under certain weather conditions, warm moist air from the Gulf and cold dry air from Canada collide. The area where these two huge masses of warm and cold air most often meet is where tornadoes are most frequent.

The line separating the warm and cold air masses is called a "cold front" if the cold air is flowing toward the warmer air. Along the cold front, moister air is warm, therefore lighter and thus forced to rise over the cold air. When the warm, moist air rises up to the cooler upper atmosphere, its moisture condenses and releases heat energy. (A typical one-hour summer thunderstorm could supply enough energy to power a city like Detroit for a day.) The increased temperature, caused by the condensation and resulting release of heat, strengthens the updraft (that is, the rise of warm air) ahead of the cold front and results in the towering cumulonimbus thunderclouds associated with tornado activity. Since the updraft occurs ahead of an approaching cold front, tornadoes form in the warm air mass. Because winds in the warm air sector are generally from the southwest, tornadoes usually come from that direction. In Michigan 40% of

the observed tornadoes were from the southwest, and almost 100% came from between the northwest and the south.

The late afternoon and early evening is when most tornadoes occur, because the earth's surface heats up during the day, so the largest temperature difference between the warm air and the approaching cold front or squall line will be in the late afternoon. In Michigan 80% of all tornadoes have occurred between 2 and 9 PM. However, tornadoes have been observed here at every hour of the day except between 5 and 6 AM.

Without a doubt, tornadoes are the most destructive and violent of all storms in intensity. Estimated wind speeds in excess of 200-250 m.p.h. (estimated because few instruments have been able to survive a tornado encounter) are enough to destroy most any structure. For example, a 200 m.p.h. wind would exert 100 tons of force on a 10' x 30' wall of a house. Also, the rapid drop in pressure resulting from an approaching tornado can cause an unventilated building to explode. That's why you're always told to open the south and west windows a little in case of a tornado. Of course, you should get in a basement or protected area, in the southwest corner so debris would blow over you, not on top of you.

Fortunately tornadoes are small in scale. Their paths are narrow, and the funnels don't last long. Compared with hurricane damage, tornado damage is not usually widespread. The average width of a tornado is about 250 yards; average distance travelled on the ground is between 3 and 6 miles.

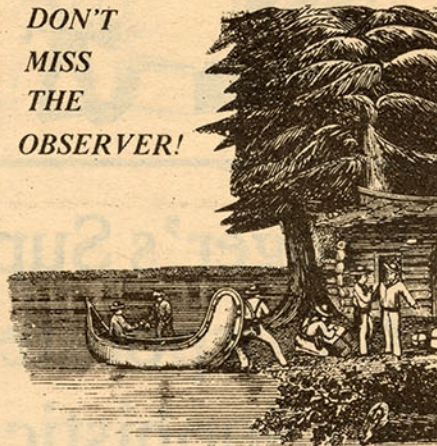
Tornado-caused deaths and injuries have decreased greatly in the past 15 years, thanks to better forecasting tools and improved dissemination of warnings to the public over radio and TV.

—Gordon Urquhart

Gordon Urquhart is a graduate of the department of Atmospheric and Oceanic Science at The University of Michigan.

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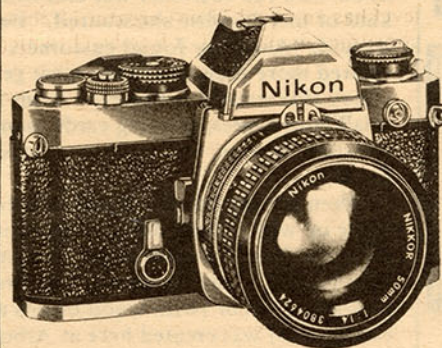
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Michigan Union  
(at snack bar & magazine stand)  
Michigan League  
Borders Books  
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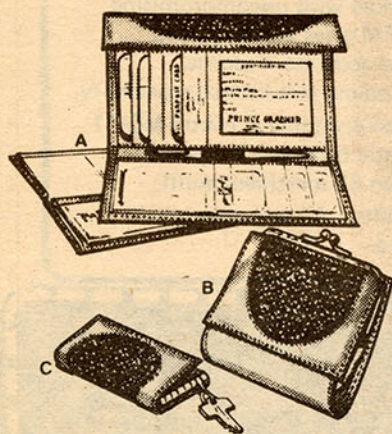
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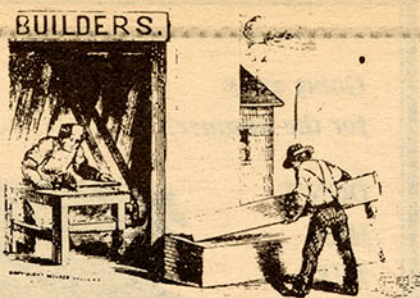


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# Changes

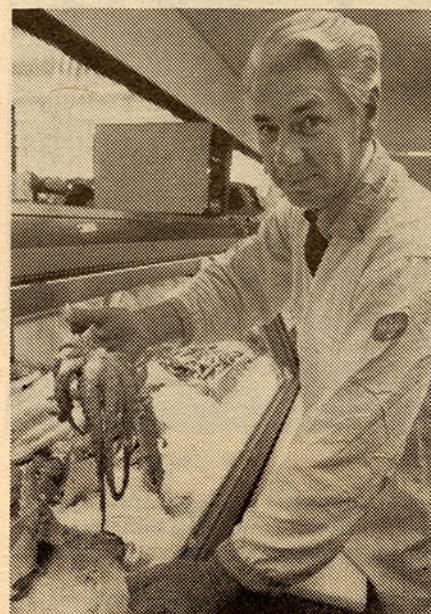
## Kroger's Superstore at Westgate: A Corporate Giant Responds To Sophisticated Consumer Tastes

Since the Westgate Kroger has become a Superstore, rumors have been going around to the effect that it is the highest-volume supermarket in the country. Actually, in terms of total volume, Westgate Kroger No. 388 is the number two store in the huge Kroger chain, second only to the Hyde Park store in suburban Cincinnati, home of the Kroger Company. Westgate's grand opening week last April 2-8 did see a record volume set for a Kroger store—only nobody's saying what that volume is. Sales volumes and customer counts are closely-guarded secrets in the highly competitive world of supermarket retailing. But Chris Beseler, Kroger's Michigan-region advertising manager, was otherwise happy to talk about the Superstore concept and the new Westgate superstore in particular.

In 1970 Kroger conducted extensive market research that spawned the Superstore concept. "They wanted to get to know who the customer was and what kind of merchandise she wanted," Beseler said. "And they found customers wanted more than what they were getting—they also wanted fringe-type items like small housewares, greeting cards, more selection in wine, and more international foods."

Then Kroger asked a design firm to come up with a fresh decor, something different from the stark white or pastels then typical of supermarkets. The first Superstore decor (with wood beams and earth tones) was created here at Arborland about 1971. "Through it we learned a lot about the design concept and consumer reaction to it," reported Beseler. Gradually Kroger is converting all its stores into Superstores—at least in terms of decor. The Broadway Kroger is being remodeled and expanded now. The Westgate store got the treatment in 1973.

A deli department, plant department, and greeting card section are standard superstore items. But only a very large store with very high volume can afford the space and overhead of the special departments that the Westgate Superstore has: the service meat department, for instance, where you can ask a real butcher to prepare a crown roast of lamb for your dinner party; the fresh fish department,



Peter Yates

Fresh octopus in the Westgate Kroger fish department is a far cry from the usual supermarket's freezer of prepackaged seafood. Don Gillette demonstrates.

complete with tank of live lobsters; and the free-standing deli cheese shop with huge pieces of cheese. High volume is necessary to afford separate, specially-trained employees to staff such departments all the time the store is open, Beseler said.

These expensive-to-operate departments are at present a test. If they do well at Westgate, Kroger will try them in other high-volume stores in comparable areas like Grand Rapids' Kentwood store. "We wanted to test new ideas in a good store to begin with," Beseler told us, "and Westgate is probably the best food store in Michigan." Other test departments are being tried out elsewhere; the Warren Superstore at 11 Mile and Hoover, for instance, has a clothing department with casual clothing for adults and children.

Operating in the Detroit area keeps the Kroger regional management on its toes, according to Beseler. The Detroit market (of which Ann Arbor is fortunate to be a part) is one of the most competitive in

the country, with six chains competing (Kroger, Meijer, A & P, Farmer Jack, Chatham, and Wrigley/Great Scott) almost neck-and-neck in terms of share-of-market percentages. "No one chain has a distinct advantage over all the rest," Beseler said. "Prices are forced down, so it takes a big volume to pay the bills, and chains will go to great lengths to create and maintain that volume in order to protect their investment. Last year earnings for supermarkets in the Detroit area hit an all-time low. Several chains were rumored to have run in the red."

There are several other such pockets of "answering competition" throughout the country, where when one chain introduces longer hours, trading stamps, or other innovations, the competition is forced to do likewise just to stay in the game. Two such areas are New Jersey (where a coupon war is now going on) and the West Coast.

Westgate Kroger has grown to about 40,000 square feet, with a sales floor of 27,600 square feet. But despite the trend toward bigger and bigger stores, some things are moving back to the old days. Take the produce section, for example. A few years ago it was hard to get tomatoes or pears in a supermarket that weren't plastic-wrapped and packed six to a tray. This arrangement protected the produce and reduced losses from unnecessary handling, but it frustrated shoppers, who couldn't select the quantity and quality of items for themselves. Now customers can once again pick over their oranges and cucumbers in "bulk produce areas" (an impressive term for old-fashioned bins of loose produce). Bulk produce areas are the wave of the future, in the Kroger chain at any rate, made possible because improved transportation systems bring produce to the store when it's fresher and better able to stand up to handling.

Further anachronisms: at the fish and service meat counters, you can buy just the amount you want, filleted or ground or cut to order. The supermarkets are feeling the need to compete with service-oriented small specialty food shops. Ethnic specialties like fresh Italian fennel sausage and German bratwurst can be found in Kroger's deli department.

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# Changes/Continued

## Bon Voyage To Alex Master Craftsman

Alex Bajnoczi is a well-known and loquacious Hungarian restorer of paintings and antiques. He calls himself simply "Alex Master Craftsman." He is "79 years young." This spring, a year after his wife's death, he decided to sell his house at 530 S. Seventh and what he advertises as his "entire unusual, unique, fine antique collection," using the proceeds to take a trip around the world. The furniture, paintings, tools and materials are now in the process of being sold, and a friend has just bought the house.

Alex came to his trade as restorer relatively late in life. He served as an officer in the Austro-Hungarian army during World War One, then became executive manager of a firearms import wholesaler and retailer. He lived an affluent life in Budapest until the Russians took over after World War Two and he fled to Austria. In a refugee camp there he learned to tool leather and carve wood, skills which he used first in a furniture factory and then in setting himself up in business here in Ann Arbor, aided by Church World Service, an organization that aids refugees.

As Alex puts it, "The good Lord said, 'You lost everything, so I give you something: a strong fist, good fingers, a little in the fingertips, a little upstairs, a sense of humor.'" It takes patience, long hours and a delicate touch to perform tricky tasks like reassembling broken furniture parts and applying hard-to-handle gold leaf.

After his round-the-world trip, Alex plans to stay awhile in Vienna, perhaps



Alex Bajnoczi with an ornately framed painting he restored.

with relatives, and there decide whether to stay in Vienna or return to Ann Arbor. Vienna is not far from his beloved Budapest, mementoes of which abound in his crowded apartment—here, a photograph of "our wonderful Parliament," there, a rendering of "our beautiful bridges." But for Alex Bajnoczi and other bourgeois refugees like him, Budapest is a lifetime away. He says as long as it is controlled by Russians, he will never return.

### For Runners Only

Philippedes North, temporarily at 305 E. Liberty, is the northernmost outpost thus far of an Atlanta-based franchise specializing exclusively in shoes, clothing, and literature for runners. Local owners Tim Fox and Jim and Debra Carter are runners, and so is everyone else who works in the store. Part-time employee Greg Meyer has even been competing in international events, and Fox was the fastest marathoner in Michigan last year.

Philippedes is the name of the heroic messenger who ran the first marathon to Athens to proclaim the Greek victory over Persia at Marathon. The store carries hard-to-find products, including Ron Hill and Reebok gear from England and a selection of running clothes and shoes designed especially for women runners. Philippedes North sponsors Fun Runs every other Sunday (May 7 & 21, June 5) at 10 AM at Gallup Park, for people who like to participate in group events. It will also sponsor occasional free clinics on aspects of successful running and co-operate with the Ann Arbor Track Club on other projects. Some time around June 1 the store will move to the lower level of Liberty Plaza down the street.

### Lots of Changes Around Maynard Street

Around Maynard at William numerous changes are taking place: **First Position**, a dancewear boutique, will open soon at 522 East William, where Sans Souci used to be. It features Danskins, Capezios, and other names in warm-ups, leotards, and shoes for toe, tap and ballet. . . . **Los Burros**, a new Mexican fast-food restaurant open from 11 to 11, has replaced the Ladyfingers Cafe at Maynard and William. It offers tacos, tostadas, burritos and chili at prices from \$.55 for a simple taco with meat to \$1.35 for a wet burrito consisting of beans, beef, lettuce, cheese, sour cream, olives, and chili on a tortilla. The owners insist on remaining anonymous; the mana-

ger is Katie Sweeney. . . . **Impressions**, the unusual fabric shop, has moved across Maynard Street into much larger quarters recently occupied by Orthogonality and briefly by Albert's Copying. . . . **Onassis Coney Island** at William and Thompson has closed. . . . and a new jewelry store, **Over the Rainbow**, is opening up next to Eden Foods.

### Foreign Auto Parts Downtown

**Kever Onderdelen Auto Parts**, 112 S. Ashley, is a new wholesale and retail supplier of auto parts for VW, Volvo and Japanese cars. It's located in the buildings recently occupied by Ann Arbor Auto Service, which moved to North Main Street. Kever Onderdelen owner Dirk Dorn already operates the Kever Onderdelen Garage at 2344 Dexter across from Vets' Park. Dorn is Dutch, and Kever Onderdelen is Dutch for "VW parts and service." He says he'll stock a full line of engine and chassis components. Dorn already has a going wholesale auto parts business, but the downtown location will provide good exposure for developing a consumer-oriented retail market. It's just a block from the Bay & Tool U-do-it garage operated by former partner Gary Eaton. "There's clearly a lack of supply in foreign auto parts," Dorn said. "We will be able to answer do-it-yourself customers' questions and have parts available faster and at better prices than the dealerships."

### O'Hair

**O'Hair**, hair stylists for men, women and children, has opened in the Fourth & Main Arcade, 212 S. Fourth Avenue. Proprietors and stylists Larry and Marie Parker have worked in the Ann Arbor area for many years, Larry most recently at the Ann Arbor Inn. They have decorated their new shop with antiques they have restored themselves. Alongside the hair-styling area is an antique bar complete with mirrors and ice chest compartments. Wood built-ins come from a hundred-year old house, and newspapers from 1910-1940 cover the walls.

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Michael Berla

# A Strategy for Ann Arbor Public Transportation

Last month the Observer ran an article, "Is Dial-a-Ride Worth It?", which questioned the cost effectiveness of Ann Arbor's door-to-door bus system. Briefly, it was argued in that article that a chief reason why the public is willing with its taxes to pay about 89% of the bus system's operating expenses is to produce a substantial reduction of automobile use in the city. Dial-a-Ride was portrayed as a highly inefficient means of transporting the large numbers of passengers needed to meet the goal of a markedly less auto-dependent city.

Another, more positive view of Dial-a-Ride is held by those who see it as an important tool for weaning Ann Arborites away from the auto. One such person is Michael Berla. Berla wrote his U-M doctoral dissertation on the 1971-73 pilot Dial-a-Ride project in Ann Arbor and was a central part of the successful 1973 campaign to pass a 2.5 mill public transit millage. He served on the Ann Arbor Transportation Authority board from 1971 to 1976 and chaired the board in 1974-75. An adjunct professor of Urban Planning at the U-M, Berla teaches transportation systems planning.

At the outset, let me say that I don't intend to "defend Ann Arbor's Dial-a-Ride system." What I hope to do is shed some light on some of the remarkably complicated issues raised in the Observer article. I hope to show that, as with most other complex matters, what H. L. Mencken once said is quite true: "There's always a simple answer—and it's usually wrong."

What are we trying to achieve with public transportation in Ann Arbor? There are a number of objectives, and they're not necessarily compatible ones. We're trying to conserve some things: air quality and energy. We're trying to provide some things: mobility and access to persons who would have too little of both, absent a public transit system. We're trying to improve the economic strength of downtown Ann Arbor in order to keep it competitive with the fringe shopping cen-

ters. We're trying to reduce congestion, minimize new parking and street construction.

When I use "we," I'm not implying that I am still a decision-maker for AATA. I'm not any longer. I mean "we" who are concerned about public transportation in Ann Arbor. Toward meeting these ends—all of them—we've developed a transit system which has some low-cost and some high cost elements. (Don't jump to the conclusion that I mean "line-bus" and "Dial-a-Ride" respectively. An empty 33-passenger bus is even more wasteful than an empty Dial-a-Ride van.)

If our objectives were to minimize the cost of AATA, that would be easy. We could run one bus into downtown on Packard and one on Washtenaw arriving at 8:30 every morning. Then send them out, leaving downtown at 5:15. They'd both be full, and if desired, we could charge \$1.00 each way, and AATA would be profitable!

But we wouldn't be providing very much service with our system, and we wouldn't offer much hope of meeting our objectives either. We would have the system we had in early 1969, after the last private system folded in Ann Arbor. As AATA started to add service, it would almost immediately dip into a deficit position, no matter how we organized the system.

Why is this so? Because in a low-density, high-income city like Ann Arbor, the attractiveness of making trips by private car is almost insurmountable. Once you've bought your \$5000 car and paid the insurance and taxes, it costs next to nothing to drive it. In fact, the more you drive, the lower its cost-per-mile becomes, as you spread the initial fixed costs over more miles.

It takes a multi-prong strategy to reduce the dependence of a city like Ann Arbor on its private cars, and therefore to reduce the adverse impact of the automobile in the city. One prong is to make alternative modes more attractive; the other is to make automobile ownership and use in the city less attractive. Most of the rest of this letter is about the first, but first a bit about the second.

The range of strategies for reducing the

attractiveness of the private car is quite wide. It includes:

- reducing, or at least not increasing, available parking
- raising parking prices
- refusing to build more traffic lanes (except, possibly, for multiple-occupied vehicles such as buses, taxis, car-pools, etc.)
- prohibiting private cars from using certain streets or areas of downtown, or charging for their use either all day or at certain times
- increasing the price of gasoline, with exemptions for public transit vehicles (including taxis), etc.

Most of these strategic options are not under the control of AATA, but rather would require action by city council. Some might even require the action of the state or federal government. Some are not directly applicable in Ann Arbor, either for technical or political reasons. But all need intensive discussion in Ann Arbor, and anyone seriously desiring to reduce the impact of cars on our community (as most Ann Arbor voters say they do) would have to concede the necessity for the two-prong approach.

For now, though, let's return to the other prong: making public transit more attractive. It should be clear that in order to meet the objective of conservation and improved mobility, you have to provide more than minimal transit service. The process of attracting ridership is a constantly evolving one. Members of families that have several cars are far less likely to make bus trips than those that have only one or none. And since Ann Arbor households display above-average car ownership, that means that, initially, the demand for transit rides is relatively low in most parts of the city.

This is where demand-responsive (Dial-a-Ride) transportation comes in. At low demand levels, for a given amount of service on the street—best measured in total vehicle hours—buses that travel on fixed routes and fixed schedules simply can't provide trips as conveniently as can dispatched door-to-door vehicles. Therefore, they can't attract as many trips as can Dial-a-Ride. As demand for Dial-a-Ride increases, there comes a crossover point,



where line bus service or fixed schedules first equals, then exceeds the productivity of demand-responsive service. But the key is *demand*, not capacity.

Now, since the 1973 Ann Arbor decision to implement the Teltran integrated demand-responsive/line-haul system, AATA policy has aimed at reaching that cross-over point and beginning to substitute line-haul service for Dial-a-Ride. And in fact, since Teltran implementation was completed in 1976, all of the growth in AATA service within Ann Arbor has been in improving the line-bus component. This has been done principally by running more buses per hour on each of the lines, and, in a few cases, by starting new line service. (Interestingly, very little of AATA's ridership growth has come as a result of this additional line-bus service. Rather, it came with the addition of Dial-a-Ride service in zones that had previously been served solely by line buses.)

There are several ways to go from here, and it is frankly not clear which of these ways the *Observer* article was advocating. (Similarly, it is unclear which way the present AATA board intends to go.) One way would be to cut out the least productive parts of the system. The *Observer* article's emphasis on comparing cost-per-passenger in several Michigan cities implies that this is a route which might be taken. Several obstacles to this course exist.

The first public transit service to cut would be the most off-peak-hour parts of the system: evening and/or weekend service. These components are primarily Dial-a-Ride services because they are offered at times when demand is so low that it would be impossible to provide any service on a fixed route/fixed schedule. Cutting these low-productivity services would certainly reduce cost-per-trip, but the cut would also have an impact on the week-day service. This is because many of the people who use AATA in low-productivity times of the week would have to find other ways to travel, if the service weren't available. Many would buy cars—and having bought them would then use them for all trips.

This is the essence of the public transit dilemma: in order to increase system ridership it is necessary to provide a level of service that precludes the need for an automobile—and that service includes the ability to make trips practically anywhere any time. So in order to eventually lower cost-per-trip by increasing trip volume, you have to provide high cost-per-trip service initially to stimulate that eventual high ridership.

The economists' way of expressing this would be that there is stronger elasticity of demand for public transit with respect to *service* than with respect to *price*. (A dollar spent in improving service has much more effect on ridership than would that same dollar if spent on lowering fares.) For this reason there is a high marginal cost per trip in the early going, when you are trying to build the scale of service up to a level capable of inducing much high ridership. (And keep in mind that Ann Arbor's citizens spend about \$100 million per year on transportation, of which about 5% is for public transportation.)

The caption in the *Observer* article to the comparative cost table for six Michigan cities mentions that Ann Arbor has the largest service hours (per week) and the highest ridership per capita of any of the cities. But this point was worth more emphasis than that. It has been at the heart of the AATA objectives and strategies since at least 1971. If the objective is to shift a lot of trips to public transit, you don't do it by minimizing cost-per-trip. Neither do you do it by concentrating service solely on peak-hour work trips. You do it by providing a usable alternative to the \$100 million private car transportation system.

Another strategy implied in the *Observer* article is the substitution of line-bus service for demand-responsive service.

Here the debate is not over substance. As I mentioned above, AATA had planned this since at least 1973. And in fact, since 1976 most of the growth in AATA's service (but not ridership) has been line-bus service. Here the debate is over timing.

The implication of those who would precipitately shift AATA's service mix from integrated Dial-a-Ride/line bus service to line bus service only is that such a shift would *add* passengers. That is an agreeable position, but one which has not been well supported by the evidence to date, here in Ann Arbor or elsewhere.

What *would* be justified, I have felt for a year or so, would be a major experiment to test this hypothesis. Such an experiment would be in the tradition of AATA decision making to date: the design of a real-life experiment from which policy conclusions can be drawn. In this case, AATA might designate a sector of Ann Arbor in which line-bus service would be substituted for some (or all) of the Dial-a-Ride service. The experiment would have to be maintained for a sufficient period of time and supported with enough of a public information program, so that one could be reasonably sure that the results would be applicable to the rest of the city.

What I fear is not the reduction of Dial-a-Ride in AATA's service mix. What I fear is the beginning of a long period of tinkering with the system, on the part of people who believe that some conclusion (e.g., "line-buses are more efficient than Dial-a-Ride vans") *must* be true, and who,

unwilling to look at all evidence and to admit that they may misperceive the situation in Ann Arbor, could well bring about the reverse of what they intend: loss of ridership instead of accelerated gains.

Add those people to the few who actively wish to end or drastically curtail AATA services (listen to WPAG's "Community Comment" if you don't believe they're there) and you have a prescription for possible disaster in public transportation in Ann Arbor.

Presently, we have a system which is achieving extremely high levels of public support in Ann Arbor. The 1977 survey indicated that more than four out of every five Ann Arbor voters support the special millage for transit and would so vote if the issue were on the ballot.

That survey further shows that the public—both users and non-users of the system—supports continuation and improvement of both line-haul and Dial-a-Ride components.

The survey shows that the public looks to AATA to meet the objectives which have, in fact, been formally adopted by the AATA Board. Finally, the survey gives no basis for concluding that the public has now made cost-minimization its highest-priority objective.

If I am correct in my perception of the public's objective for AATA, and the burden of proof now clearly falls upon those who perceive otherwise in view of the available data, then it behooves the AATA Board to act cautiously, incremen-

tally, and, above all, rationally, in its efforts to improve public transportation services and performance in Ann Arbor.

—Michael Berla

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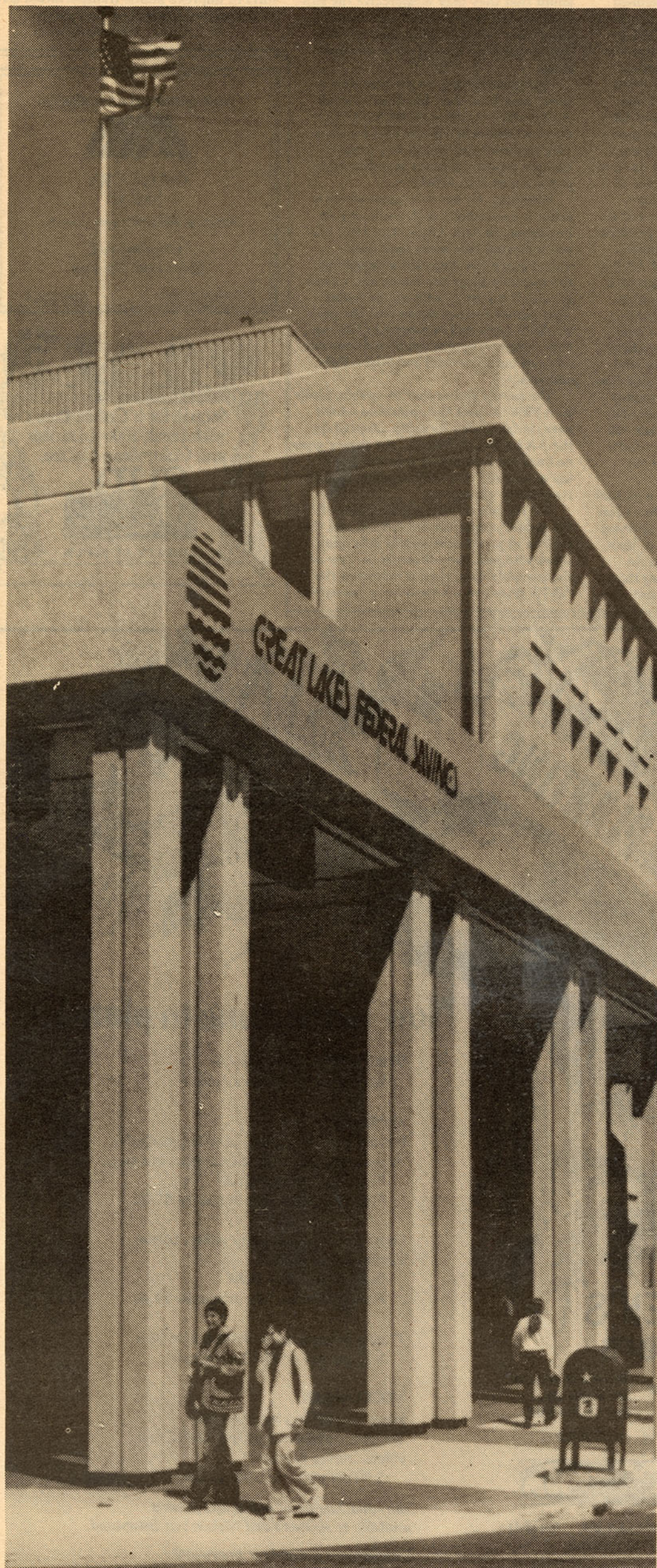
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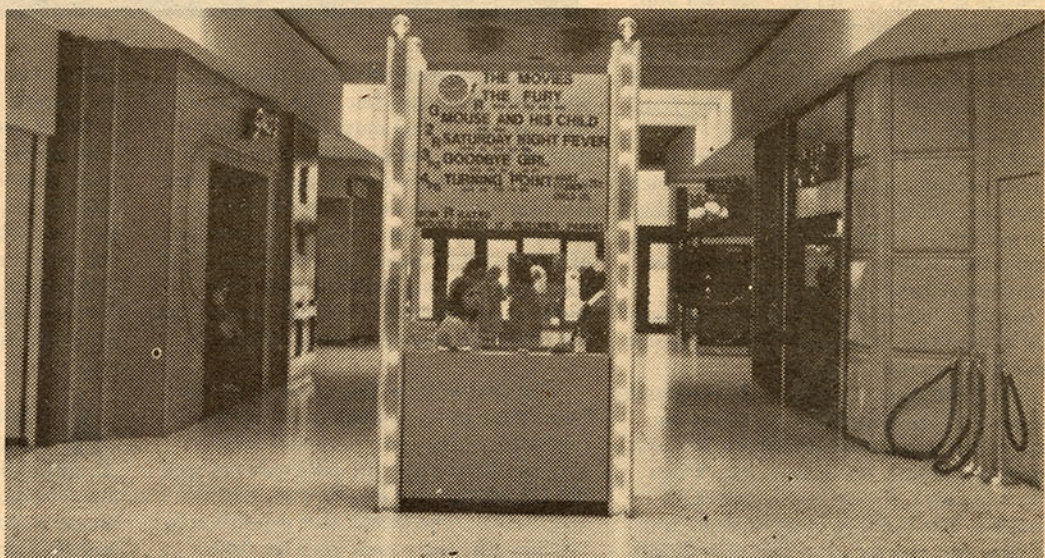
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# The Battle Of the Screens

*A theater's economic survival depends on choosing hit films months in advance. Here is how Ann Arbor's movie theaters compete for the dwindling number of money-making films released each year.*

IT'S 8:15 on a Saturday night and John and Mary Moviegoer are on the way to Briarwood for the 9:30 showing of "Blockbuster," a film they've been waiting to see for months. No, they don't have any shopping to do before the movie. The first two times they tried to see "Blockbuster," they left only an hour before show time and they didn't get in. By the time they got there, more than 300 people, the capacity of each of the four Briarwood theaters, were already in line in front of them.

Meanwhile, in another part of town, there are no lines forming at the stately Michigan theater, which is showing "Average Film." In fact, most of the Michigan's 1800 seats will be empty when the

9:00 show starts, and no one will have stood in line. The same is true at the Campus, which is showing "Obscure Foreign Film." All of this confuses John and Mary, who think there must be something a little strange about the movie theater business.

They're right.

Actually, there's a lot strange about the theater business and although movie buffs are aware of little of it, it affects what they see when and where. It is a complex and constantly changing business which sometimes confuses even the professionals in the field.

In Ann Arbor, those participants are several major theater chains and only one independent—a situation typical of most

cities today. The veteran theater operator is Butterfield Theaters, which has the Michigan, Campus, State and Wayside theaters, and the University Drive-In. Butterfield is a Michigan chain of about 75 theaters. Its newest and biggest competitor is United Artists (UA), which operates the four-screen "Movies" at Briarwood. UA is a national chain with about 1200 "screens." The Fox Village is part of the 225-theater Mann Theaters chain, and the Fifth Forum is the only locally-owned independent.

The Ann Arbor theater business is beset by the same problems that affect the industry nationally: competition from both free and pay television, high operating costs, and the scarcity of good films

to show. Where Hollywood once produced several hundred releases a year, there are now less than a hundred major films available annually. With nearly a dozen "screens" competing for this limited product, the Ann Arbor market is a highly competitive one. But it's also a good market, all the local operators agree.

A high-income, well-educated population including thousands of college students produces greater than average movie attendance. The movie business survives on the 14 to 26-year-old market, and Ann Arbor's is unusually large.

The competition between theaters will soon become even fiercer. The Fox Village closed for five weeks on April 25 so that its 950-seat auditorium can be



converted to two smaller theaters of roughly 600 and 350 seats. Later this year two additional 300-seat theaters will be built next to the existing theater. The first two will show first-run pictures, while the new theaters will mostly show films that have debuted elsewhere in the area.

**B**EFORE a theater can compete for the audience, it must first compete with the other theaters for the right to show the films that will draw that audience. The mechanism used is a complex and risky bidding process which leaves theater-owners muttering to themselves.

It wasn't always this way. Until last April, the assignment of films to theaters in this and other cities was done by a more efficient, less competitive process called "splitting." Representatives of the theaters in town would get together and decide who would get what films. The film distributors went along with this and negotiated a deal with which ever theater was designated to show a particular film.

In April, 1977, the U.S. Justice Department ruled that "splitting" was an illegal restraint of trade, a decision which surprised almost no one. It was then that the system of competitive bidding began. Under this system, the studios and their distributors have almost total control. It is a seller's market for the limited number of available films, and theater owners have little power.

The producer of a film decides when he wants it to open nationwide, based on the production schedule, what other producers are doing, the season, etc. When this is decided, bids are solicited from theaters. The bidding must be done film by film and city by city. It is now illegal to make a theater take a bad film in order to get a hit later on, but some insiders say this is still done.



The key ingredient of the bidding process is the guarantee. The exhibitors (theater operators) must offer a lump sum of cash to the distributor to get the picture. This money must be paid before the film is ever shown, and it is not refunded if the picture bombs. Guarantees of \$100,000 or more for a big picture are not unusual. The exhibitor must also agree to run the film for a minimum number of weeks, even if no one comes.

The first dollars that come in at the box office go to pay the basic weekly operating costs—the overhead—of the theater. After that, the proceeds are split 90/10: 90% to the distributor, 10% to the theater. The distributor doesn't actually get any more cash until his 90% share exceeds what he already has received as a guarantee. If the film doesn't make enough to cover the guarantee, the

distributor already has his money, and the theater takes the loss.

What makes matters worse for the exhibitors is that they're bidding blind. They don't get to see the film they're bidding on. Usually that's impossible. Bids are solicited many months before the film is released, often before it is even completed. The exhibitors gamble on the drawing power of "name" stars, the director, the book the film was based on, etc.

**A**NDREW Grainger is the film buyer for all of the Butterfield theaters. He has spent forty years in the theater business, and he's not very happy about recent developments. "The lawyers and the bankers are running the business,"

he says. "It used to be fun, but it's not anymore. Would you believe I'm bidding for Christmas pictures already? Summer is already booked." In the "old" days, Grainger says, he could book a picture a week in advance and know what he was getting.

A good example of what can happen to an exhibitor just took place at the Michigan. Mel Brooks' three previous films had been big hits, so Grainger put in a high bid for the producer's latest effort, "High Anxiety." Unfortunately, the picture had only a luke-warm box office, not enough to justify the bid.

But all this doesn't explain why John and Mary were turned away from The Movies at Briarwood, while the Michigan had surplus seats. Couldn't the Michigan, with its 1800 seats, outbid the 300-seat theaters at Briarwood for "Blockbuster"? No, it couldn't. Large theaters like the Michigan and the State are dying all over the country because they're too expensive to operate. For the first few weekends during the run of a big hit, the extra seats might, indeed, be a real asset. After that, they are just expensive overhead.

The Movies at Briarwood are part of a trend that started in the theater business several years ago. As many as six or eight small theaters are constructed and operated together, and significant economies are realized. The Movies only need one projectionist, one ticket-taker, one candy counter person, but the revenue from four films is more than the Michigan can get from one. In addition, the smaller theaters are cheaper to build, to heat, to light, etc. Most of the theaters being built today are these "multiplexes," and many large theaters, like the Fox Village, are being converted. (Those who like the

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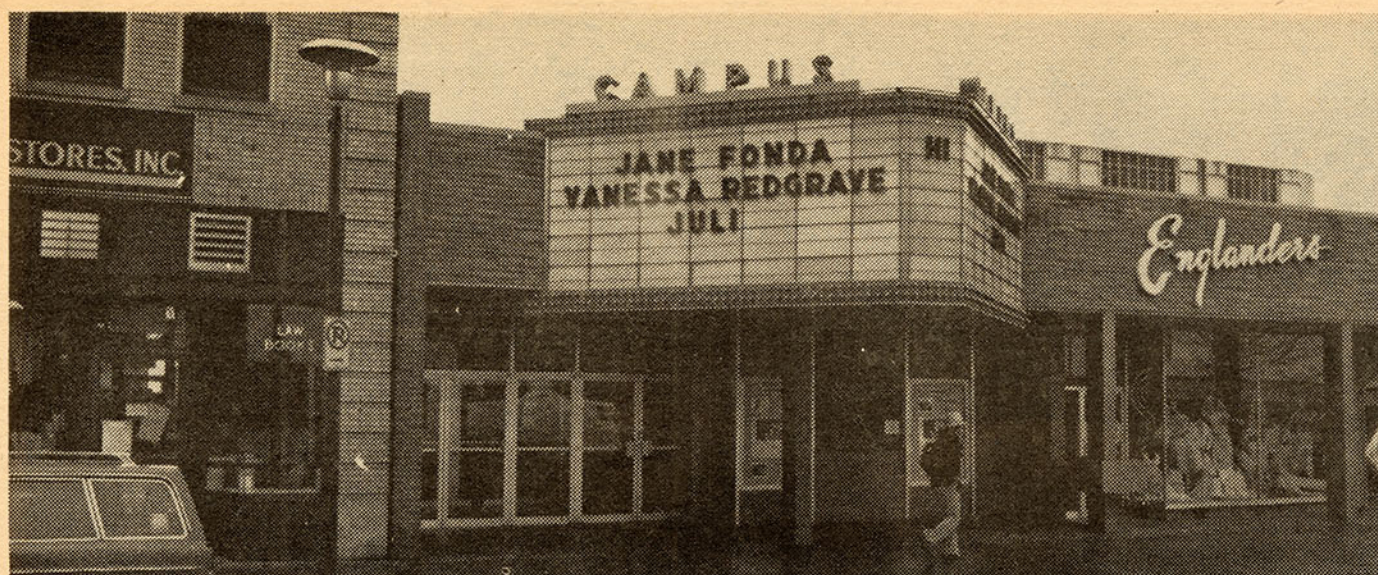
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classic theater architecture of the Michigan and the State will be happy to know that, despite rumors, there are no plans to convert either of those theaters.)

Lower operating costs make it possible for The Movies to stay open almost fifteen hours a day, picking up small audiences of Briarwood shoppers and others. The large theaters can't afford to open for such a small return.

Ann Arbor is luckier than most cities. There are no downtown theaters left in Flint, Saginaw or Toledo. They have all gone out of business. At the same time, the Michigan, State, Campus and Fifth Forum all remain viable, according to Grainger. All four theaters are within walking distance of the large and profitable University market, and this sustains them. Grainger is optimistic that they will

continue to survive.

Deciding which films to book is more of an art than a science, and it keeps people like Grainger awake nights. A year and a half ago, he decided to let The Movies have a low-budget, unknown science fiction movie in exchange for "Slapshot" for Butterfield's Kalamazoo theater. The sci-fi flick was "Star Wars," and it stayed at The Movies for 33 weeks. "Exhibitors have got to be the dumbest goddammed class of people in the world," Grainger laments. "I should have listened to my mother and become a priest."

Another thing that can make an exhibitor's life miserable is the "control figure." If a film takes in a minimum amount of revenue (the control figure) during the last week of its contracted run, the theater is usually required to run the

picture another week. The process is repeated each week that the control figure is reached.

Last year, two theaters in different parts of the country were running "Star Wars" and making the control figure week after week. December came around, and both theaters had contracted to show "Close Encounters" beginning the day of its national release. Columbia Pictures threatened to sue the theaters if they didn't begin to show "Close Encounters." Twentieth Century Fox threatened to sue if they didn't continue to show "Star Wars." The theater owners ended up in court. One judge ordered one of the theaters to continue showing Star Wars; the other ordered the opposite.

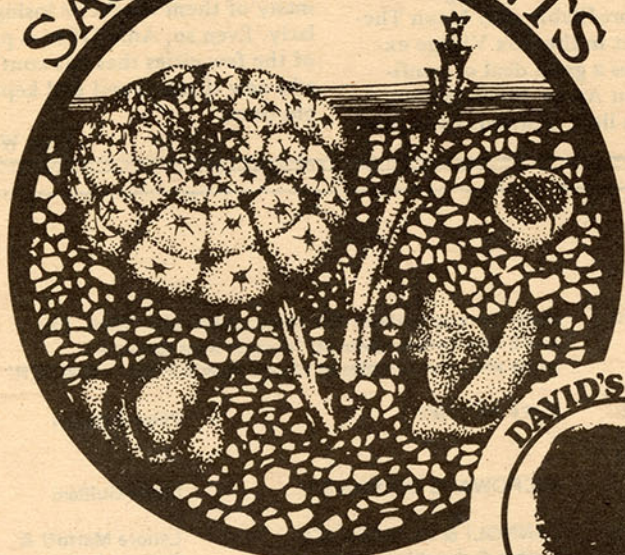
ALTHOUGH any Ann Arbor theater would have been happy to have "Star Wars" or "Jaws," they do not all go after the same pictures. Each theater has its own character and tries, to some extent, to appeal to particular segments of the audience. The booking decisions for all of Ann Arbor's theaters are made by out-of-towners. The chain theaters all have buyers who work out of other locations. Even the independent Fifth Forum has a booking agent who represents a large group of theaters.

Although the booking decisions are made elsewhere, each Ann Arbor theater has a local manager, and they all have several things in common. They are all young, and they all worked their way up in the theater business.

Dennis Gaines is the City Manager for Butterfield, overseeing its five theaters in the area. He is typical of local theater managers. Only 23, he began as an usher, moved up to projectionist and now manager. Gaines dispels any notion of glamour or romance in the theater business. He works a split shift, 11 am-3 pm and 6-10 pm, six days a week. The job doesn't pay well and the future is uncertain. With the large number of theater closings and more pay TV on the horizon, "it's a questionable business for someone my age," Gaines says. And he's clearly not in the business out of devotion. "I'm not much of a movie buff. It's gotta be a pretty good movie before I'll go see it."

According to Gaines, each of the Butterfield theaters has a distinctive character. The Wayside is "a typical Disney house most of the time, nothing over PG. It's a baby-sitting place for Saturday and Sunday afternoons." The State is known

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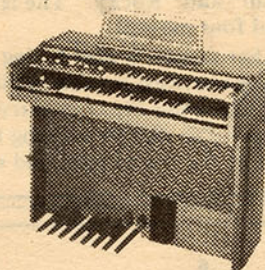
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for its "action-type pictures." The Michigan gets a lot of comedies and some of the big hits that Briarwood doesn't snare. The Campus has a lot of everything, including some foreign fare. Andrew Granger describes it as a kind of stepchild, a "low profile house" that can show rather off-beat pictures and still make a profit from its mostly University audience.

Another 23-year-old who worked his way up through the ranks is Steve Flynn, manager of The Movies. Flynn's theaters draw some campus clientele, but are particularly appealing to people who don't like the hassles of parking downtown or near the University. With four separate theaters, he can offer a wide variety of films at all times.

Flynn has some specific ideas about Ann Arbor audiences. "Ann Arbor crowds are not into violence. They're into love stories and comedies." The latter, he says, usually last about nine weeks at his theaters. Suspense films are only good for about two. Ann Arborites also have strong views about commercials in the theaters, which The Movies were showing for several months. They didn't like them, and they let Flynn know it.

Flynn is trying to convince his United Artists superiors to let him turn one of his four theaters into an "arts theater" with New York film festival material and foreign films. He feels there is an unfulfilled local demand for this kind of entertainment.

The 500-seat Fifth Forum is managed by 26-year-old Susan Ei who says she "loves movies" and is "married to the Fifth Forum. I haven't had a Friday or Saturday night or Sunday off in two years." For a number of years, Fifth Forum had a somewhat unorthodox collection of films. Partially, that was by design, to appeal to the University attitudes of the late 60's and early 70's. It also



Photos by Peter Yates

One thing that makes The Movies at Briarwood profitable is its modern, automated projection room. One projectionist can run all the equipment for four theaters simultaneously. The equipment itself, known as a "platter" system, is far more advanced than other area theaters use. An entire show, lasting up to 4½ hours and including short subjects, cartoons, and the main feature, can be loaded onto the platter and run without reel changes. The film does not have to be rewound, which saves wear and tear on the prints.

stemmed from an inability to obtain some of the more commercially successful pictures. The theater's bookings are now being handled by a new company, and it has landed some major hits, including "Annie Hall" and "Rocky." The latter film stayed four months.

Ei says her theater is now trying to get the most popular, best-promoted films available. "One good film will carry you for the year." The theater is doing much better than in the recent past, and she

hopes to keep it that way. "It's the only downtown theater, and everything seems to be happening downtown."

As the manager of the Fox Village, Phil Curran is preparing to preside over its expansion from one screen to four. The move is designed to make a marginal theater a strongly profitable one. Mann Theaters' investment in the Fox Village expansion indicates a great deal of confidence in the Ann Arbor movie market. Still, Curran is a little worried. Even now,

he says, it's tough to fill all the screens in town. With three more, it'll be even tougher.

All of the local managers agree on one thing. The theater business is, at best, a marginally profitable enterprise. Take away the popcorn and candy revenues and many of them would be losing money regularly. Even so, Ann Arbor is probably one of the few cities that has continued to add new theaters and still kept all of its old ones.

—Tom Wieder

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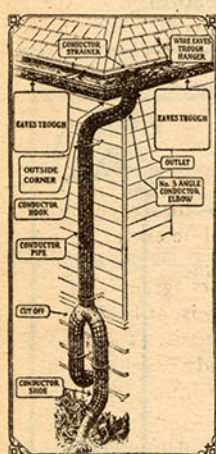
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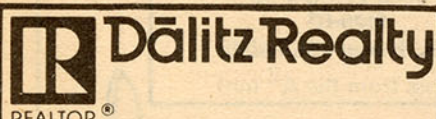
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# Local History



View of Katavothra, a small agricultural village in southern Greece, taken in 1922. Families of many (but not necessarily most) Greeks in Ann Arbor come from Kothavartha and neighboring villages. Kothavartha has one store and one tavern, no restaurants at all, yet presently members of one extended family alone from Katavothra own six Ann Arbor restaurants in whole or part: The Cottage Inn (Nick and Helen Roumanis Michos), Thano's Lamplighter (Thano and Vicki R. Masters), Real Seafood (Sam Roumanis), Omega Pizza (George Bokas and his late wife Marika Roumanis), Deno's Pin Room at the Colonial Lanes (Deno Chronis), and the Wolverine Den (Louis and Tom Roumanis). All the Roumanis clan is descended from or married to descendants of the eight Govatos sisters, one of whom, Theresa, happened to come to Ann Arbor with her husband back before 1920.

Tula Prokos is one of Theresa's daughters. She says, "We're all cousins, part of the same family whether we're related by marriage or blood. And we seem to be bringing more and more family over all the time. Katavothra isn't very big, probably because everybody's coming to Ann Arbor."

## A Casual History of Greeks in Ann Arbor

The Greek Festival on June 1 through 3 brings into special prominence an already highly visible element in Ann Arbor's population. The casual visitor to our city may well be struck with the number of local restaurants and coffee shops with pictures of the Parthenon on the wall, a Greek name, or Greek food, or a Greek key motif on the menu at the very least. In Olga's we even have an ethnic Greek counterpart to McDonald's. By our rough survey, in fact, of 64 central Ann Arbor restaurants, 22 are owned by Greeks.)

Throughout the month of May, Greekness becomes almost omnipresent, as increasing numbers of posters in store windows and bumper stickers on cars proclaim the Greek greeting "Ya'ssoo" to promote the Greek Festival. On the first weekend in June there's the event itself—three days of Mediterranean-style festivities, eating and exuberant dancing amounting to about 5000 meals, 30,000 pieces of baked goods, 15,000 people in attendance, and \$20,000 earned to help pay the mortgage on St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church.

The impending rush of Hellenophilia led us to wonder about Ann Arbor's Greek community and how it happens to be here. Today the word "community" is all too frequently used as a warm and positive-sounding euphemism for a loose group of people who don't form a true community at all. But Ann Arbor's Greeks really are a community, based on close-knit ties of family and friendship,

focussed for the most part on the church and its social organizations.

Despite the prominence of Greeks in small business in Ann Arbor, their numbers are not large, we learned. The St. Nicholas congregation, founded in 1935, numbers a thousand, most of whom are Ann Arborites. Most but not all Greeks here belong to St. Nicholas.

Greeks are still immigrating and settling in Ann Arbor. The first ones came to Ann Arbor around 1910, according to be naturals for Greek immigrants, who were in general ambitious and hard-working but limited in English-speaking ability, capital, and technical skills.

"Greeks are individualists, and they've been criticized for being too individualistic," says John Kokales. Kokales, owner of the Capitol Market, has been a leader in the Greek community and downtown and theater groups. "Our kids ask us why we didn't work within a corporate structure. But Greeks seemed to get into personal-service businesses—restaurants, groceries, show repair. It fit in with their personalities, they felt it's what they could do best." An old joke makes fun of Greeks' inclination to factionalism: "it takes two Greeks to start an argument and three to form a political party."

A man could start out in the restaurant business by working as a cook for someone else. By saving his money, working long hours, and enlisting the help of his wife and children, he could start a small lunch counter (often combined with

home-made ice cream and candy). Re-investing their savings, they could and often did build up a thriving operation and earn more money to invest in other businesses or in real estate, perhaps. Typically the owner staffed his expanding business with relatives from Greece, who, having served an apprenticeship, might then start a restaurant business themselves.

In this way immigrants from a single agricultural village with one tavern and one store, could come to Ann Arbor and the nearly 80-year-old Peter Collins (born Peter Kyriakoulis—the "Collins" is the legacy of a U.S. Immigration officer). He immigrated from the village of Katavothra in southern Greece about 1910 and came to Ann Arbor in 1923. He remembers recruitment agencies in Greece, as in many European countries, enlisting workers to come to the land of opportunity. The first Greeks in this area, he says, worked maintaining the track on the Michigan Central and Ann Arbor railroads. Many started working for Hoover Ball and Bearing during its boom years in World War One. Bachelors often lived crowded together until they could save enough to marry and bring over wives from Greece.

But Greeks are notoriously independent-minded people, Collins told us, and many choose to go into business for themselves on an extremely modest scale, starting with pushcarts and fruit stands, rather than working for wages for someone else. Labor-intensive businesses like restaurants and grocery stores turned out



start restaurants.

Peter Collins's own case is not unusual. At about the age of 21, he emigrated from Greece, coming first to Marquette, where he worked for a relative who had established a small lunch counter catering to the miners there. Years later, when he was thinking about getting married, he heard about a friend's wife's eligible sister in Ann Arbor. So he visited here and married Aphrodite Govatos, who had come to this country as a ten-year-old live-in helper to her father's cousin's family and later moved to Ann Arbor with her sister and brother-in-law, Tom Thompson. Aphrodite insisted they stay in Ann Arbor rather than moving to the wilds of the north, so Collins and Thompson (born Anthony Athanasakos) started Thompson's Restaurant at Miller and Main. Today it is the Olympic Restaurant. The Collinses became prosperous enough to build in 1928 a spacious house on Revena Boulevard, where numerous other Greeks were building. Later the Collinses started Candyland (on Huron, where the Ann Arbor Bank parking lot is) and Sweetland (now home of Willoughby-Wanty shoes). They made their own candy and ice cream. In later years Collins was involved in two Ypsilanti bars and in food service at the University of Michigan.

Although most immigrating Greeks had been farmers in their native land, agriculture itself seems to have attracted few of them here, perhaps because methods were so different, or because farming on Greece's poor soil was unrewarding, or because American farms were beyond the reach of immigrants in 1910 and 1920, whereas the restaurant business was growing fast when Greeks arrived.

In a small city like Ann Arbor at the turn of the century, people went home for lunch. Eating out was a luxury few people could afford. Saloons provided a light lunch, and restaurants were for farmers who came to market (these were very plain affairs), for students (in which case they were more like boarding houses), for travellers (who ate in hotel dining rooms), or for entertaining large parties of people. By 1920, however, Ann Arbor had many more downtown workers; most of them lived in suburban houses and didn't go home for lunch. Huron Street had become a busy highway between Detroit and Chicago, and quite a few res-



From a family album: about 1910, an older man poses proudly for a studio portrait in his festive costume for special occasions.

taurants were located there. People had more money to spend, Prohibition had closed the saloons, and sweet shops with ice cream, sodas, sandwiches, and candy had become popular gathering places for young and old alike. Drake's Sandwich Shop on North University still has the atmosphere of these old-time places. In their heyday in the 1920's and 1930's many such establishments were run by Greeks.

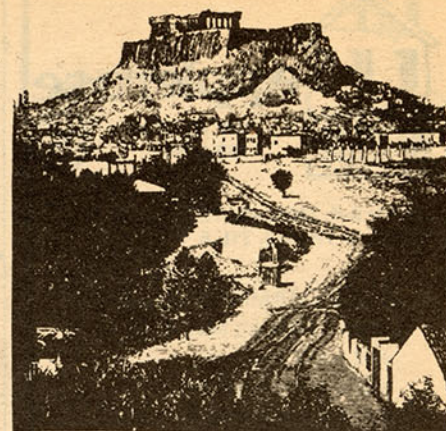
Greeks in Ann Arbor started many other kinds of small businesses and have acquired a lot of downtown and campus-area commercial real estate, too. Brothers William and Angelo Poulos, for instance, started out in the 1920's with a Main Street restaurant where Curtis's Chicken-in-the-Rough is today. They got into the grocery business, then started the old Daisy Meat Market (later sold to a German) on W. Washington next to the Old German Restaurant. With other relatives they acquired several houses on Liberty near State and built the Michigan Theater Building, which the family still owns today. Later they bought the old Allenel Hotel, torn down for the Ann Arbor Inn.

Brothers Peter and Charley Kokales started the Majestic pool room and lunch counter on State Street where Jacobsen's

"J" Shop is. Those were the days of the quarter lunch and nickel pool game. When the Depression reduced student spending on luxuries like pool, the Kokaleses bought the Huron Hotel on Fourth and Huron (today The Embassy). Peter's son John bought the Capitol Market in 1955. When the original building at Washington and Fourth was demolished for the parking structure, he purchased the Capitol Market's present home.

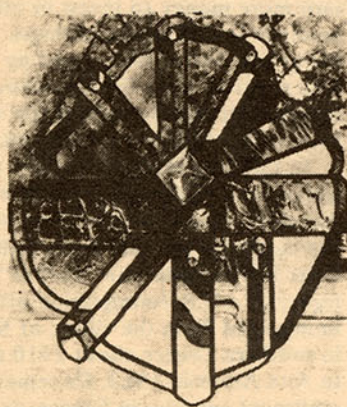
Chris Bilakos ran Peters Hotel on Fourth and Ann and acquired much of the nearby property on Ann Street, which his children own today. The now-vacant block of Ann Street was Ann Arbor's counterpart to Detroit's Greektown for many years, from 1919 into the late thirties, according to city directories. The ornate old Beal Block at Ann and Main (sadly torn down for a Kroger, now the Salvation Army Red Shield Store) housed Dyonesus Raftopulos' coffee house, an old-country meeting place much like the dark and undecorated Laikoon Cafe that remains in Greektown in Detroit. There the men could drink Turkish coffee in demitasse cups, and play Greek games like Kolitsina (a card game played with oversized cards) and Tavli (a form of backgammon.).

The nearby row of other Ann Street businesses was run by Greeks and catered to Greeks: a barbershop, pool room shoe repair shop, and bar. Some of that atmosphere remains at the Athens Show Repair on Main Street next to the Quality Bakery, where older Greek men congregate.



The Acropolis of Athens, from the southeast.

As a second generation of Greeks went to school and grew up in Ann Arbor, they tended to continue the pattern of going into business for themselves, but branched out into new areas and professions. Immigrant parents saved and sacrificed so their children could have an education. According to John Kokales, every one of his contemporaries (members of the second generation, now forty and fifty years old) went to college—a remarkable achievement for parents who came to this country with no money, no knowledge of English, and no skills useful in a modern urban society. Greeks emphasized education much more than most people. Earlier groups, including Ann Arbor's Germans and Irish, tended to put their children to work after eighth grade until after World War One. Then finishing high school became the norm.



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1935: West Park, looking toward downtown

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# Then & Now: The Sugar Bowl on S. Main

No discussion of Ann Arbor restaurants or Greeks in Ann Arbor could possibly be complete without mentioning the Sugar Bowl.

Generations of Ann Arborites fondly remember the Preketes' brothers' Sugar Bowl, a Main Street landmark for many years. Charley, Tony, Paul and Frank Preketes had worked at the Sugar Bowl Restaurant owned by Peter and Charley Kokales in Adrian and they used the same name when they set up shop here in 1912. Hand-dipped chocolates were made in the family apartment upstairs, and ice cream was produced the hard way, using cracked ice in hand-cranked freezers. Sandwiches and sodas were served at the lunch counter and in booths. The business prospered, and by 1928 it had expanded into a second storefront. By the mid-1930's it had a snappy tile floor.

The Preketes Brothers' Ann Arbor Sugar Bowl (to use its full name) remained in business for fifty-four years. By 1967, however, all the brothers had retired. Ann Arbor Bank has moved into the original north part of the Sugar Bowl, and a contemporary office has replaced the other part.



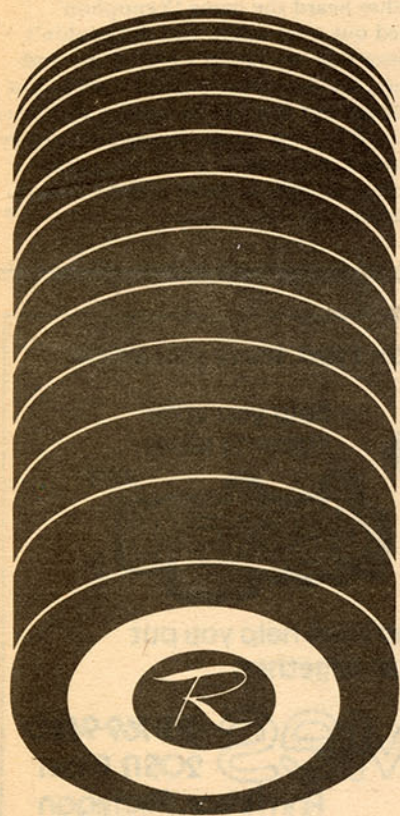
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1928



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Lunch counter, soda fountain, candy shop— the Preketes Brothers' Sugar Bowl was a favorite downtown restaurant from 1912 to 1966.



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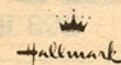
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# Evans Mirageas On Greeks & Being Greek

Evans Mirageas, 23-year-old WUOM producer and "Music of the Masters" host, is part of the third generation of Greeks in Ann Arbor. He's in the position, unusual for most Americans, of being in everyday contact with two very different worlds, the Greek world of his grandparents, traditional and close-knit, and the academic world, complex, stimulating, transient and sometimes too trendy. He attends church at St. Nicholas regularly, visits his grandparents frequently and has animated and affectionate chats with them in Greek. He keeps in touch with the doings of the local Greek community. He obviously loves his situation, enjoying the best of both worlds. For the past three years, and again this year, he's the M.C. at the Greek Festival.

We asked Evans about many aspects of being Greek in Ann Arbor, and here are some of his comments:

**On Greek families:** "Greeks are family-proud and name-conscious. They would be ashamed to go on welfare, and they don't want to admit trouble to others."

**On the Greek Festival:** "I love it. It's a distillation of an attitude toward life that is very extroverted and enthusiastic. It draws the entire Greek community together, whether they're church-goers or not. Everybody in town can participate and be part of the crowd. Nobody cares if you know how to dance or not."

**On intermarriage:** "Deep in their hearts Greek parents would be thrilled to have their child marry a Greek."

**On the typical Greek personality:** "Greeks are known for their hospitality. Anybody they like becomes part of the family. Greeks will on the whole take you at face value unless proven otherwise, and then they'll be your worst enemy. They're open and friendly at first meeting. It's genuine, if simple. Of course they don't know you from Adam, but Greeks are good at first assessments. We read faces very well and can tell if someone's honest. Generosity and warmth to a complete stranger is part of a tradition that becomes nearly instinctive."

**On the conservatism of Greek-Americans:** "The Greek culture is fairly conservative politically. [So are the Orthodox churches in general.] Furthermore, Greek-Americans have done well by capitalism. Through saving and attention to personal needs they have achieved a hard-won prosperity and security. Their experience seems alien to the social concerns of American liberals. Also, Greek-Americans have a strong anti-communist bent because of the communist invasion of Greece from the north after World War Two. Brothers fought brothers in that civil war."

**On given names:** "Names of Greek gods and goddesses and famous ancient Greeks—names like Aristotle, or Aphrodite, or Demetrios—aren't used much any more. But my father was named Xenophon, after the ancient historian. A baby's godfather had the right to give the baptismal name, and nobody else knows it



Peter Yates

Evans Mirageas with his grandparents Alice and Peter Collins (born Kyriakoulos).

until the ceremony when the priest calls for the name of the child and repeats it. When the priest called out 'Xenophon,' my grandmother was furious. She wanted a more easily Americanized name like Georgos or Petros or Nicholas. My father was generally known by his middle name, John, but his friends always called him 'Phoney.' When I was baptized, it was a double baptism with another baby. My

mother heard the name 'Xenophon' called out once again, and she couldn't believe that my father's friend, my godfather, would repeat this dirty trick. But it turned out Xenophon was for the other baby. My Greek name, Evangelos, usually is turned into Van or Evan or Angelo. Evans is actually a Welsh name, but it remembers the Greek name.

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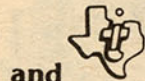
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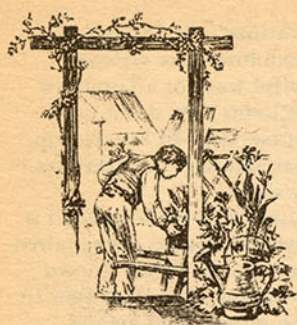
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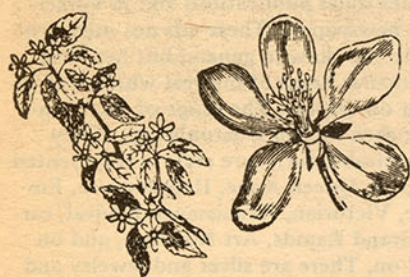




# Leisure Notes

## Apple Blossom Time

Early May is the time to plan a walk down Awixa to see the Hopa Crabapple trees in bloom. It was the inspiration of the late Eli Gallup, Superintendent of Parks, to plant these lovely trees along the street where he lived. The Hopa Crab is a particularly satisfying tree because it is beautiful right from the time it is planted, blooming exuberantly even when it is very small. Like all apple trees it is long lived, continuing to perform long after the diseases of old age attack it. The



Hopas on Awixa, now over forty years old, are beginning to show signs of heart rot which makes them more brittle than they once were. But we've all seen old sweet apple trees still producing crops on completely hollow trunks and, like them, the Awixa trees have many years of life in them. They suffer from scale which in some seasons causes them to drop their leaves early. The city will be spraying them to fight this condition with a fungicide such as Benlate.

Anyone wishing to see the spectacular sight of more than a hundred acres of apple trees in bloom is welcome to visit the Wiard Orchards along in the second week of May. Wiard's is at 5565 Hewitt Road, between Carpenter and Stony Creek Roads, south of M-12. Many signs along Carpenter lead you to the orchards. Wiard's encourages visitors at blossom time and asks only that you stop at the retail store, which is open 9-5, 7 days a week, so they can warn you away from areas being sprayed.

## Dexter—Ann Arbor Road Run

The 5th Annual Dexter-Ann Arbor Road Run is scheduled for May 27, and registration forms and information are now available at all offices of Ann Arbor Bank and Trust, at local sporting goods shops, and from the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission. Registration deadline is May 15; no late entries accepted. Sponsors of the annual event are The Ann Arbor Track Club, Ann Arbor Bank and Trust, and radio station WAAM.

First organized in 1974 as an event during Ann Arbor's sesquicentennial, the Run now draws nearly 1000 men and women for its 15-mile and 7-mile distances. As in past years, the Run is scheduled for the Memorial Day weekend—and



this year will get under way on Saturday, May 27 at 8:30 am. The 15-mile run begins on Baker Road in front of Dexter High School. The 7-mile run starts on Huron River Drive and North Maple Road at Foster Bridge. Buses will ferry runners from the finish site at Huron High School to both starting points. At the end of the Run, there is a picnic for all runners and spectators.



## Renaissance Music from The Broken Consort

A concert of Renaissance court music will be presented by the Broken Consort Saturday, May 13. The musicians play in costume, using early instruments to bring back some of the spirit of Renaissance court life. Tenor Bruce Carvel, a musicologist, soprano Janet Smarr, a voice student and baritone Matt Steel, a music historian, sing and play an assortment of instruments including viols, recorders, a psaltery, shawm (an early woodwind), sackbut (medieval trombone) and jaw's harp. Some instruments are from the U-M's Stearns Collection.

A "broken consort" is a style of musical instrumentation using mixed voices and instruments, contrasted to a viol consort, for instance, which uses viols only,

or a consort of voices. An offshoot of the School of Music's Collegium Musicum formed of early music students, the Broken Consort first performed at the Medieval Festival two years ago and has continued to perform at concerts, weddings, and festive occasions. "Early" music is based on modes (akin to minor keys) not yet evolved into a modern scale. In addition to its romantic cultural associations with Medieval and Renaissance life, early music appeals to musicians because of its challenging rhythms, which are complex and rather jazzy.

The May 13 concert, "Rare Old Burgundy," features the innovative and sensitive music of Guillaume Dufay (c. 1400-1475), a leading composer for the Burgundian Courts. Time: 8 PM, May 13. Place: St. Claire's Episcopal Church/Temple Beth Emeth, 2309 Packard. Admission is free, but donations are welcome.

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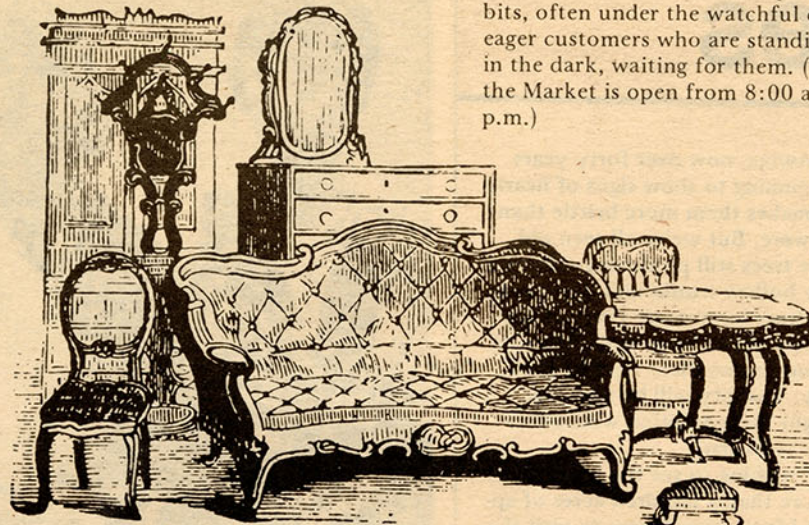


# The Antiques Market: A Monthly Sunday Pleasure

EVERY once in a while someone comes along with an idea for a business that is so right for the times and fits so neatly with the interests of the community that it becomes an instant success, in fact an institution. Like the Treasure Mart and the Farmers Market, The Antiques Market on Saline-Ann Arbor Road has developed and thrived at a time when there is intense interest in old-time things and old-time ways. Craftsmanship and quality have an enormous appeal in a throwaway culture. Antique collecting is the ultimate in recycling.

When Margaret Brusher put on the first Antiques Market the third Sunday in August of 1969, she knew almost instantly she had a big success on her hands. After that first Market, 62 exhibitors asked to be included in the next one, to be held in September. Almost nine years have gone by during which the market has outgrown its original home in the facilities of the Farmers Market and moved out to its present location on the grounds of the Washtenaw Farm Council on Saline-Ann Arbor Road. The techniques and standards by which the Market operates now have been refined to the point where the events have become famous among exhibitors from all over the country. The Market is the favorite haunt, on every third Sunday of the month throughout the spring, summer, and fall, of thousands of antiques enthusiasts from a large section of the Middle West.

Margaret Brusher's idea grew from several sources. "I was immediately attracted to the Farmers Market when my husband and I moved to Ann Arbor," she says. "We had bounced around a good deal before settling here—from North Carolina to Alaska to Idaho—and the friendliness and quality of the Farmers Market, unique in our experience, drew us like a magnet. Fred's position as a per-



sonnel manager at General Motors provided a permanent anchor for us at last, and I was soon involved in charity fund raising, some of it through the medium of antiques shows."

"We were already collectors ourselves," adds Fred Brusher, an authority on jacquard coverlets. "From the beginning Margaret has identified equally with buyers and sellers."

Flea markets were proliferating around the country and the Brushers found them great fun. But Margaret felt there was a need for a refinement of the idea, for a market that preserved the spirit of a treasure hunt inherent in flea markets and the friendly atmosphere of the Farmers' Market, and that had the added protection for the customer of an overseeing manager, who could insist that goods were what they purported to be and who could exclude junk, when it cheapened or detracted from other exhibitors.

There are now more than 225 dealers at each Market. They come from as near

as Ann Arbor and as far as Texas. At 5 a.m., every third Sunday of the month, April through October, the dealers drive up to the show barns of the 4-H Clubs at 5055 Saline-Ann Arbor Road. (The last Market of the season is the second Sunday in November.) Arriving in trucks, station wagons, and rented trailers, they proceed to unload and set up their exhibits, often under the watchful eye of eager customers who are standing around in the dark, waiting for them. (Officially the Market is open from 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.)

Booth reservations cost \$30 per Market. One-time exhibitors are welcome. This is a wonderful way for a family to dispose of extra items they don't need—provided, of course, they fit the description of "antiques and select collectibles." This is a quality show.

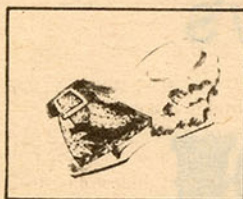
Margaret Brusher's controlling hand is apparent everywhere. Dealers are required to price each item and to list all known repairs and restorations. She hires four to six checkers each month who among them have a broad range of expertise. Their job is to check on quality. She urges dealers to police each other—and they do. She herself takes note of their friendliness to the public and to one another. Any dealer considered to be below the standard of the Market in any respect is excluded in the future. The system of month-to-month contracts makes this possible.

The Antiques Market draws crowds of thousands. (Admission is \$1 and there is limitless free parking.) They have been drawn to the show by its excellent reputation for integrity and by the extensive advertising Margaret places in 145 antiques trade publications and in numerous newspapers. These ads not only promote the show in general but headline particular items of interest which will appear on display. The range of merchandise each month is astonishing. Every conceivable furniture style is represented—Pilgrim, Queen Anne, Hepplewhite, Empire, Victorian, Renaissance Revival, early Grand Rapids, Art Nouveau, and on and on. There are silver and jewelry and watches and clocks. There are primitive paintings, and fine prints and merry-go-round horses. In the category of "collectibles" are some of the more recent favorites of nostalgia buffs—old toys, dolls, quaint advertising signs, old medicine bottles, sheet music.

Above all, these events are fun. That man looking so pleased with the antique rolling pin he has just bought to add to his collection of kitchen tools is just as happy as the serious investor who has just parted with \$2,800 for a small Queen Anne table with slipper feet. And neither is any happier than the young woman who has just spotted a Chinese Export porcelain punch bowl of rare beauty and high price and realizes her grandmother has one just like it.

—Annette Churchill

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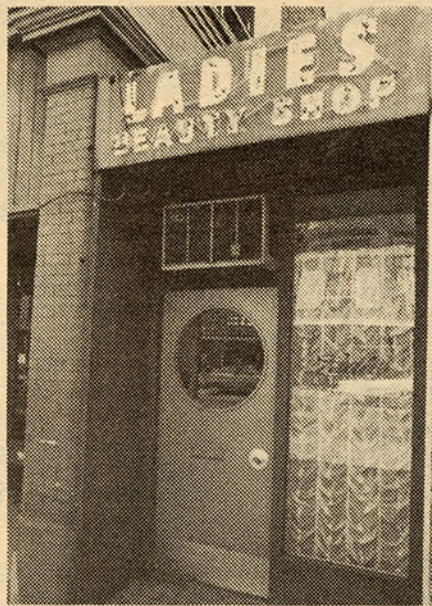
## Small World

Bicyclers and walkers often notice small, interesting things around town which people in cars whiz right by.

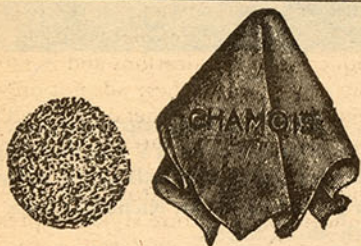
Perhaps the smallest beauty parlor in the world is at 1106 S. University, between The Petal Shop and Artisan Lighting. The sign over it says LADIES, Beauty Shop. Inside are two sinks and two dryers. The shop is six feet wide.

Then there is the small cube of a building in the corner angle of Catherine and Fourth Ave. This is Argerio's Restaurant, all of it—kitchen and dining room both. Inside, enveloped in the aroma of authentic Italian cooking, are three small tables for four and four small tables for two.

And at 1500 W. Huron, at the corner of N. Revena, is a very old and extremely tiny house of exquisite symmetry and proportions. Seen head on, it has the sunny innocence of a child's drawing of a house.



Peter Yates



## Window Washing The Professional Way

At this time of year most home owners have to count on spending one week-end washing the windows of their houses on the outside. If the job also includes washing the two surfaces of permanently installed storm windows, it can be a formidable one indeed. It is not a job for little spray bottles and paper towels. Here is how the professional window cleaners do it.

First they assemble professional quality tools—a pail, a good squeegee such as the Steecone squeegee, which comes in lengths of 8" to 22" (\$3.45-\$5), a Mediterranean seawool natural sponge (\$5.95),

a real chamois skin (up to \$8.80, depending on size), and trisodium phosphate, available in bulk at paint stores or janitor supply outlets, or a sodium carbonate compound such as Soilax, for people who prefer to avoid using phosphorous compounds.

They make a solution of one fistful of cleaning compound in a pail of hot water. Then starting with the top window panes at the top of the house they wet each pane with the sponge, wipe each clean with the squeegee, shaking it once good and hard at the end of each wipe to get rid of the dirty water. Then they dry the corners and edges with the chamois which is absolutely lintless and dries the surface in one wipe, even when it itself is wet. This system finishes the job very quickly, once the technique is mastered. They throw away the solution in catch basins or in the house plumbing (it will burn vegetation). They rinse out sponges and chamois with care.

Quality hardware stores and janitor supply stores carry everything you need. A one-time investment in these supplies should last many years.

## Planting for Birds



Providing bird seed in the winter is one way of attracting birds. Another is having trees and shrubs on your property which give birds plenty of natural food sources, nest sites, and protection from the elements.

One accessible source of information on what species of shrubs and trees to plant, how to plant them and manage your back-yard wildlife is the Washtenaw County Soil Conservation District office at 6101 Jackson Road,

Ann Arbor 48103. Personnel will advise you over the phone. What's more, each year in April the office sells at nominal prices seedling trees and shrubs which are attractive and useful to birds. May is still not too late to find good shrubs for birds at nurseries.

Here's a list of trees and shrubs most frequently recommended for food, cover, and nest sites for birds: autumn olive, Russian olive, red cedar, high-bush cranberry, firethorn (also called pyrocantha), and cotoneaster. Especially recommended for food: wild grape, Siberian crab, cherry, wild plum, mulberry, elderberry, bittersweet, and tatarian honeysuckle. For cover and nest sites: white spruce, holly, Hawthorn, gray dogwood, and multiflora rose.

—Steven Cohen

## A Theatrical Samson At St. Andrews

*Samson Agonistes* is John Milton's great dramatic poem dealing with Samson's struggle to understand and fulfill God's purpose with him. It has been adapted for modern acting by Frank Huntley of Ann Arbor, and The St. Andrew's Players will present it on May 9, 10 and 11 at 8 p.m. in St.

Andrew's Episcopal Church on North Division Street. Tickets at the door at \$1.50. Appearing in the cast are several names familiar to local theatre-goers, including Robert Green, Nancy Heusel, Thomas Strode, Robin Barlow and The Reverend Canon G. Alexander Miller (St. Andrew's "Father Alex," and recipient of the Best Supporting Actor of The Year award last season from Ann Arbor Civic Theatre).

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Saturday, May 13. 11:00 - 1:00  
**YOU CAN TAKE IT WITH YOU II**  
 (totable rug making II)  
 Techniques of hooking, rya, needlepoint, crochet and knitting rugs. Demonstrated by Barbara Nordman.

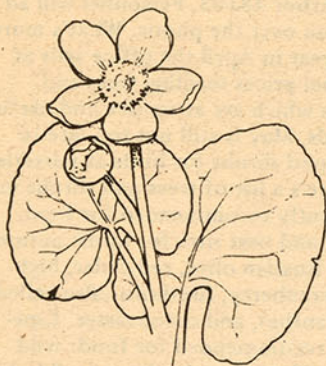
Saturday, May 20. 11:00 - 1:00  
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Sunday, May 21. 3:00 - 5:00 p.m.  
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Cowslip or Marsh Marigold

## Borrow a Cowslip

Cowslips are in bloom this month in the swamps and damp ditches of the county. People say that their foliage is good to eat, though we've never met anyone who has eaten it. Their cheery, hot-yellow color and generous bloom make them one of the more showy wild flowers that grows in this area. Unlike most wild flowers, they aren't a bit bothered by being moved around. You can dig up a clump in bud or bloom, place it in a bowl and bring it inside to enjoy along with your other houseplants. Keep it muddy-wet. When it stops blooming, put it back in the swamp. It won't resent this treatment at all.



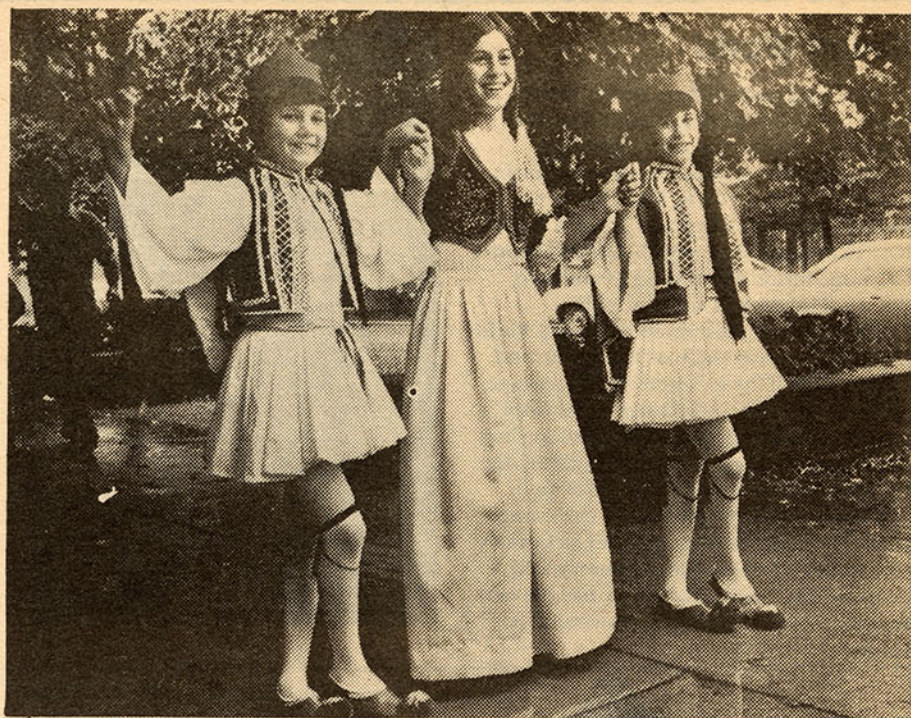
## Volunteer Placement In the Mental Health

There are now openings for volunteers with the Washtenaw County Community Mental Health Center: in the Assault Crisis Center and also for working with retarded adults, children, and adults with emotional or other personal problems. Training begins May 13. Volunteers work once a week and make a time pledge from six months to a year. They must be 21 years of age or older; people over 40 are especially urged to participate. Inquire by calling 994-2601.

Volunteer work is an excellent way to explore career possibilities in the mental health fields, Volunteer Director John Swartz points out.

## Family History

Getting started in researching family history can be confusing. A Family History Workshop (to be held Saturday, May 20 from 1 to 5 PM at the Public Library) is designed to help. In addition to talks, a library tour will acquaint participants with material available within the library and with possibilities for inter-library loans. Participants will also receive a work kit with samples of family history charts and lists of research sources. It is necessary to pre-register; send name, address, phone number and one dollar to "Workshop, Genealogical Society of Washtenaw County, Box 7155, Ann Arbor 48107. For further information, call Donna Taylor at 449-4802. The Friends of the Library and Genealogical Society of Washtenaw County are sponsoring the event.



Jennie Michos, Stephanie Savas, Theo Michos.

## The Greek Festival

The Greek Festival is here once more. June 1 through 3, Thursday through Saturday, there will be all-day bake sales with familiar and not-so-familiar Greek pastries. Lunches and dinners will be served. The restaurant operation will be streamlined this year, with fewer choices to avoid the long lines of the past and to have everyone served by 9 PM, when the dancing begins. Professional Greek dancers in costume will appear on Thursday and Friday evenings, and young Ann Arbor dancers will perform during dinner. The Detroit bouzouki band Dino and the Continentals will play again, and WUOM's Evans Mirageas will return as master of ceremonies.

A Buick Skylark, trip to Greece, microwave oven and color TV will be raffled off Saturday night. Proceeds of the entire affair go to benefit St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church.

What you'll see, we're told, is a somewhat simplified and homogenized Greek-American version of authentic Greek dances and costumes. Greek-Americans come from many different regions of Greece, whose traditions differ from one another. In this country a simplified Greek culture has been created in which all can participate without a detailed knowledge of, for instance, intricate dance steps or dialect songs. It captures the Greek spirit without being exactly authentic.



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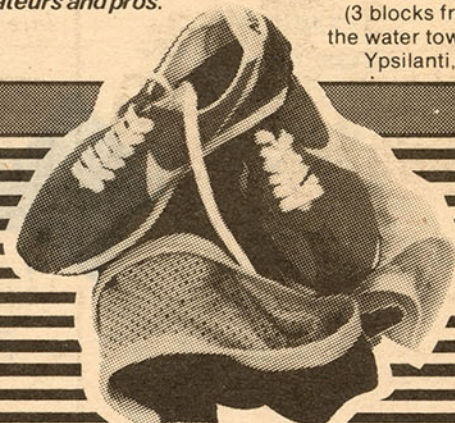
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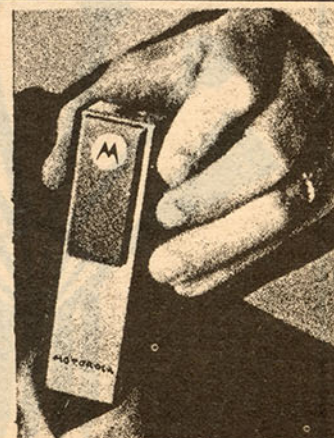
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# Good Company—Poets at Michigan: Selections from an Unusual Anthology

*Good Company—Poets at Michigan* is an attractive anthology of poems by poets who have read their work in Ann Arbor, while visiting or living here, between 1972 and 1977. Editor-photographer Jeanne Rockwell conceived the book with a dual purpose. The full-page portraits of the poets are meant, she says, "to draw the reader into the persona or life of the poet or the meaning of the poem." And the poems are intended to be a tangible reminder of the many poets "who were here reading their work into appreciative but thin air." Biographical notes on each poet are included in an appendix.

Selecting the poets and arranging with their publishers to reprint the poems (which were all donated by the poets) was difficult. "For every fine poet included there could well be ten more . . . who rightly should be in this book," Rockwell says. Eleven of the poets represented live in Ann Arbor or southeastern Michigan: Carolyn Balducci, Ed Burrows, Andrew Carrigan, Carolyn Holmes Gregory, Warren Hecht, Bert Hornback, Lemuel Johnson, Gayl Jones, Margaret Kaminski, Richard McMullen, and Bobbee Valeau. Two others, Jane Kenyon and Nancy Willard, are from Ann

Arbor; Donald Hall taught here until 1975 and provided the initiative in organizing and popularizing poetry readings on campus in recent years. Now able to make a living as an author of both poetry and non-fiction, he lives on a farm in Danbury, New Hampshire.

*Good Company at Michigan*, available for \$5 at Borders Bookshop, is the first publication of Noon Rock, with Thomas Noonan (Jeanne Rockwell's husband) as publisher.

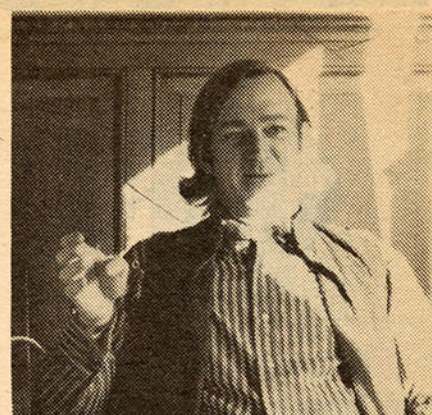


Photo by Jeanne Rockwell

## WRINGING NECKS

Life being what it is  
and a chicken's neck  
these modern days  
wrung by machine  
and the body held  
by an economical defeathering  
frustrator  
there must be kids who've never seen

so I should describe  
what death was  
for a chicken.  
After you lost your head

wrenched by a hand  
with a rotary motion  
and the body flung off in an arc  
you landed on your feet

and walked about  
sensible enough  
in wobbly circles  
until the agony of life  
and protest against the pot  
were over, or enough.

It was self-respect  
that made being a chicken count.  
It was the power of walking about  
even when they had your head.

BERT G. HORNBACK



Photo by Jeanne Rockwell

## LOVE, ANOTHER STORY

I turn the desk light off,  
and the light of the room,  
and close the door,  
as if I belonged there.  
"Thank you for packing the rest of my things," he says.  
At the station. He has on blue dungarees.  
"I dreamed I'd met you for the first time.  
I said, 'Hi.'  
You said, 'Speak.'  
I said, 'Hi' again.  
You said, 'Speak again. State your business. Why you're here?'"  
"What did you say?" he asks.  
"I said, 'I came because you said come.'  
"Did I answer that?" he asks.  
"No, you just stood watching me."  
He turns a bit away from me,  
keeps his hands in his pockets.  
Then he says, "We won't write.  
Not unless there's something you feel you  
have to tell me."  
"There'd be no use in waiting, then, would there?" I ask.  
He says, "No."  
Then he says, "I don't think I'm a very good person."  
"Neither do I," I say.  
He frowns.  
I'd meant, "Neither do I think I'm a good person."  
But he took it wrong.  
I let him keep it wrong.  
He says quietly, "There's a story by Cervantes  
about a man who went crazy  
and believed he was made of glass  
and wouldn't let anyone come near him  
because he believed he was made of glass  
from head to foot."  
"Is it true?" I ask.  
He doesn't answer, then he says,  
"People aren't as fragile as they pretend to be."  
When he shakes my hand,  
I see his splintered glass for fingers,  
the blood on my own.

GAYL JONES

## PHOTOGRAPHS OF WALTER PINKUS

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# Above Ann Arbor: May, 1978

A fair meteor shower and a good conjunction (close approach of two astronomical objects as seen in Earth's sky, in this case Venus and Jupiter) highlight May's celestial calendar. You can pick up the two planets early in the month and then watch them come together.

Thu. 4 This isn't a good year for meteors, but more should be visible tonight and tomorrow night than on any other date of the year. Meteors (often incorrectly called "shooting stars") are small objects, typically 1/25 inch in diameter, burning up from air friction as they hit Earth's upper atmosphere at speeds of anywhere from 7 to 42 miles per second (tonight's are near the upper limit, specifically 40.7). They are not stars, which are huge gaseous globes typically millions of times bigger than Earth and hundreds of trillions of miles or more away, but they do look as if stars had detached themselves from the sky and streaked across it in falling. On certain nights of the year, there are more meteors than average because Earth, in its yearly orbit of the Sun, happens to cross a concentration of debris particles left behind by a dead or dying comet. Tonight is such a night; the comet is the most famous of all, Halley's Comet (which will next be visible in 1985-86, although it will never come near Earth and thus will be very disappointingly faint the whole time); and the "meteor shower" of abnormally large number of meteors, is called the Eta Aquarids. You can see about one meteor per three minutes by looking in any direction you like at any time you like (meteor showers are the one astronomical phenomenon for which time and direction aren't crucial) if you give your eyes at least 20 minutes to get adapted to the darkness and if you observe from a dark country sky, away from city lights (including Ann Arbor's). The later in the night you look, the more you'll see; after midnight is better than before, though you should see some at any hour. This is the best meteor shower of 1978 by default; others that should be better, such as the Perseids in August and the Orionids in October, are drowned out by near-full Moons or peak during daylight hours this year.

Fri. 5 7:30 p.m. (a new, earlier time) First program in the U-M Astronomical Film Festival's nine-year history to be given in Spring or Summer (we'll have eight more this year). The free program, open to everyone, includes two films about the Sun and *The New Universe*, on the HEAO (High-Energy Astronomical Observatory) series of satellites, which are studying such exotic astronomical objects as quasars, exploding galaxies, and (if they exist) black holes. It's in comfortable, air-conditioned Auditorium 3, Modern Languages Building (a block south and a block east of State and Huron).

Tue. 9 and Wed. 10 around 9:45 p.m. You can use the Moon, now a crescent in the evening sky, to identify Venus and Jupiter; it will be due left of Venus at this time Tue. 9 and directly under Jupiter at

the same time Wed. 10, in both cases by roughly 15 times its own diameter or somewhat less than 10 degrees (the portion of sky covered by your clenched fist, measured from top to bottom when held at arm's length). If you watch at the same time every night through Sun. 28 (see below), you'll see that the Moon rapidly leaves this part of the sky, but the two planets remain there, with Jupiter slowly moving down toward Venus (an apparent motion that is actually due more to the Earth's movement around the Sun than Jupiter's own, but still allows you to see a vivid demonstration of planetary motion in progress). This is an especially appropriate month to observe Venus, since the first of two launches that comprise our next planetary mission, Pioneer-Venus (the first space project in history devoted primarily to the atmosphere, as opposed to surface and interior, of another planet) is this month—Sat. 20 or later. We expect to learn a great deal about planetary atmospheres from this mission, including facts that will help improve forecasts of weather on Earth (I'll give a public lecture on the mission in the Astronomical Film Festival program June 2).

Fri. 12 7:30 p.m. 71st program of the U-M Astronomical Film Festival, free, Aud. 3, Modern Languages Building (see Fri. 5 above for directions): two films, *The Quiet Sun* and *Skylab and the Sun*, plus a lecture by me on next year's total Solar eclipse—the last visible from the contiguous United States in this century. If you'd like to see it, bring the *Rand McNally Road Atlas* (available in most local book stores) or other maps of the NW United States and central Canada; I'll have detailed maps of those areas for you to copy showing just where the eclipse will be visible.

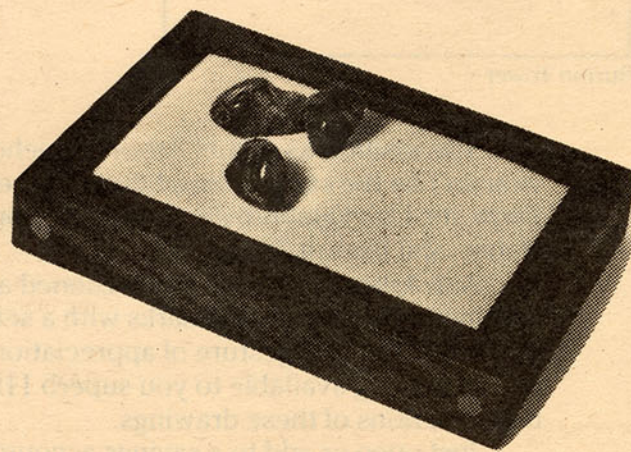
Sun. 28 and Mon. 29 around 10:00 p.m. Spectacular conjunction of Venus and Jupiter, the two brightest astronomical objects (aside from the Sun and Moon). If you've been watching them since Tue. 9, as described above, you'll have no trouble identifying them; if not, just look at 10:00 or thereabouts 15 degrees above the WNW point on the horizon. To estimate 15 degrees, note that your fist at arm's length covers ten degrees of sky from top to bottom; to find which way is WNW, note that many Michigan streets and roads extend due N-S or due E-W (see a reliable map). Venus is brighter than Jupiter; both are yellow-white; and Venus is due right of Jupiter at 10 p.m. Sun. 28, or directly above it at the same time Mon. 29. In both cases, the separation of the two planets is only two degrees—much smaller than the field of view of an average pair of binoculars. Of course, the two planets are nowhere near each other in real, three-dimensional space; they just happen to lie in the same direction from Earth. On Sun. 28, Venus is 126 million miles from Earth, while Jupiter is 435 million miles behind it.

—Jim Loudon



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Doug & Martha 21 N.C.	Don Jopert 22 No cover	Jay Stillstra 23	Jackson Blues Band 24	Jillson Pierson Band 25	Dick Siegel 26 and the COUNTRY VOLUNTEERS !!	
Sharon Archambault 28 No cover	Joel Mabius 29 No cover	A. Mark Wolf 30 No cover	Jackson Blues Band 31	Free Fri. 4:30-7:00 MIKE SMITH and the COUNTRY VOLUNTEERS !! SAT. 8:00-7:00 PETER STARK BLUES REVIEWED SUN 4:30-7:00 ARLO BOND STRING BAND		

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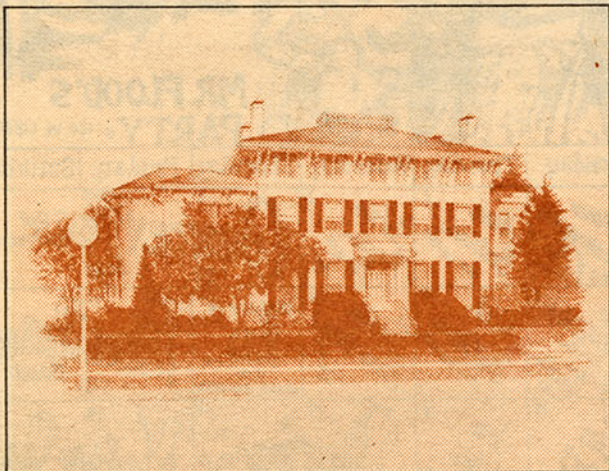
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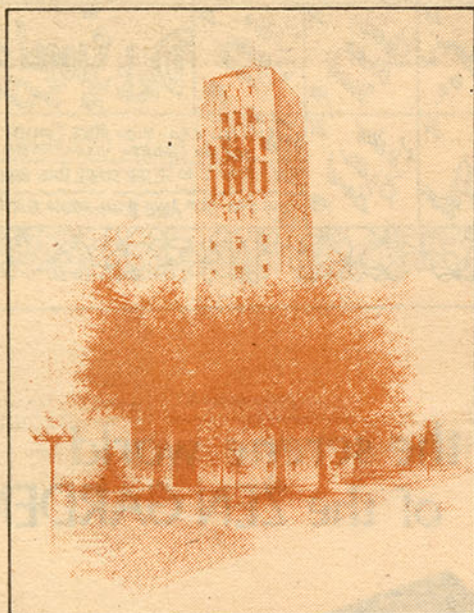


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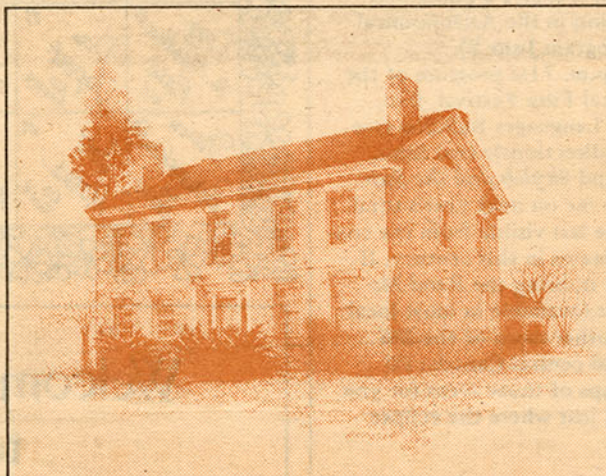
# The Landmarks: Ann Arbor Series



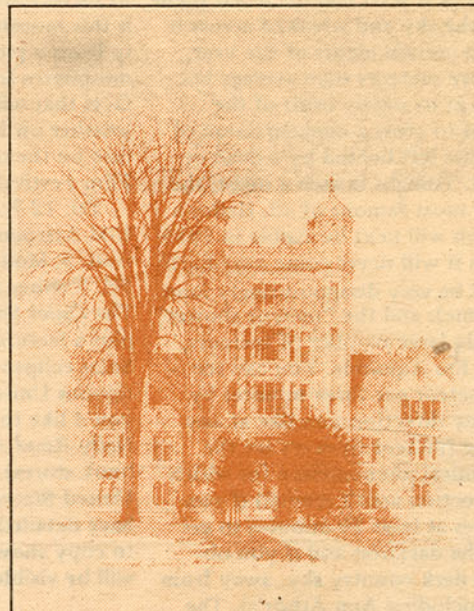
Presidents' House



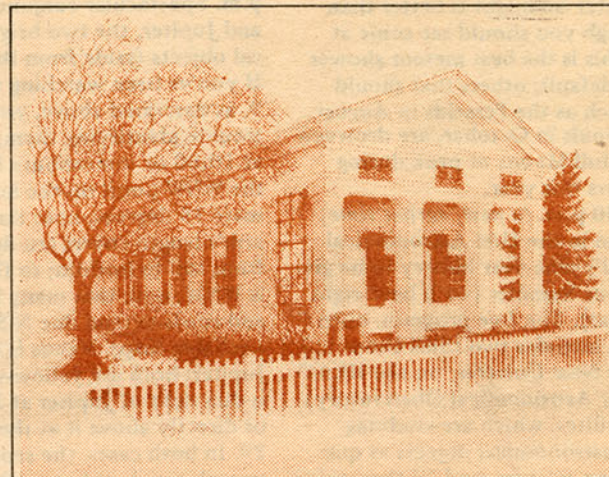
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